

The Planets

Fill in the blanks using words from the word lists:

Mercury

Mercury is the _____ planet to the sun. The distance from Mercury to the sun is about 58 million kilometres. Its diameter is 4875 _____. Mercury takes only 88 days to revolve or _____ once around the sun. It rotates or spins on its own axis once every 59 _____. Because it rotates so slowly and is also so close to the _____, Mercury has extremes of temperature on each side of the planet. The dark side is about -180°C , and the lit side is about _____ $^{\circ}\text{C}$. Mercury has only a thin atmosphere.

Word list:

430, kilometres, days, closest, orbit, sun

Venus

Venus is the _____ planet from the sun. Except for our sun and our moon, Venus is the brightest object we can see in the night _____. We call it the “Morning Star” or the “_____ Star” although Venus is not a star. When Captain Cook discovered Australia in 1770, he had been commissioned to observe the transit of Venus from Tahiti in the Pacific Ocean. The transit of Venus occurs when Venus passes in front of the _____. Venus has an atmosphere which is mostly _____. There is also some sulphur dioxide, which _____ believe came from volcanoes. The clouds of Venus contain sulphuric _____, and the winds which circle the planet travel up to _____ km/hr. Because Venus rotates slowly, there is a difference in the day-side temperature (40°C) and the night-side _____ (-170°C).

Word list:

astronomers, second, sun, 360, acid, temperature, sky, Evening, carbon dioxide

Earth

Our Earth is the _____ planet from the sun. It is often called the “blue” planet because of the colour of the _____. The earth is different from the other planets in our solar _____ because there is life and a large amount of water on our planet. It takes one _____ for the earth to revolve once around the sun, and it takes one _____ for the earth to rotate once on its own axis. Earth’s _____ contains the gases, nitrogen, _____ and carbon dioxide. The temperature around the planet is quite constant between -20°C and 40°C .

Word list:

atmosphere, system, day, year, oxygen, third, oceans

Mars

Mars is called the “red” planet, probably because of the rusted rocks on its surface. Mars probably has ice caps at its _____. It is the second _____ planet after Venus in the night sky. Mars has two _____. The rotation time, revolution time and temperature of Mars are similar to that of _____. The Martian atmosphere consists of mostly _____ with small amounts of nitrogen and oxygen.

Word list:

carbon dioxide, poles, brightest, moons, Earth

Jupiter

Jupiter is the largest planet in our _____ system. It is 300 times _____ than Earth. There are 16 satellites of Jupiter and one is bigger than _____. There is also a system of rings surrounding the planet. The cloud-filled atmosphere is cold, with the gases, _____, methane, ammonia and some water. There are strong winds which give the planet a _____ appearance, because this large planet _____ once every 10 hours approximately.

Word list:

banded, Mercury, solar, heavier, rotates, hydrogen

Saturn

Saturn is the sixth planet from the sun, but is the second _____ in size. When seen from Earth, Saturn appears _____ in colour with distinctive _____. These rings are thought to be made of rock, frozen gases, and some water. More than _____ satellites have been seen around Saturn. The _____ is mostly hydrogen and helium. _____ may be as fast as 1700 km/h.

Word list:

Winds, yellow, atmosphere, largest, rings, 20

Uranus

Uranus also has rings like the planet, _____. Its atmosphere is mostly _____ and helium. It also has about 15 _____. Uranus takes 84 _____ to orbit the sun, but only takes 17 hours to _____.

Word list:

rotate, satellites, Saturn, hydrogen, years

Neptune

Neptune is the furthest planet from the sun. It takes about 165 years for Neptune to _____ the sun, but only 16 hours to rotate on its _____. There are eight known _____ of Neptune, but only two can be seen from Earth. The atmosphere is mostly hydrogen and _____ and it is extremely cold with a _____ of -218°C .

Word list:

temperature, axis, satellites, eighth, orbit, helium