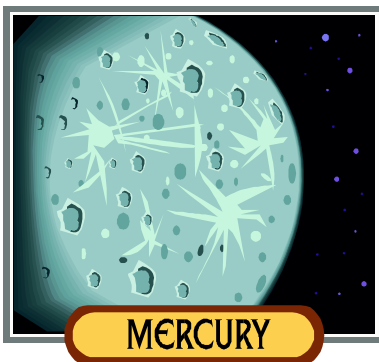


Planet Fact Sheet

There are nine planets that travel around the sun. Together with the sun, these planets make up our solar system. The planets are in motion and travel around the sun in oval shaped paths called orbits. Each planet travels in its own orbit.



The Nine Planets



- Mercury is the closest planet to the sun
- Mercury has no water
- Mercury is covered with craters
- No moons orbit Mercury
- Mercury has the shortest year (88

Earth days)

- Mercury is burning hot on the sunny side and freezing on the dark side

- Venus is the second planet from the sun
- Venus rotates backwards compared to the other eight planets
- The clouds on Venus are thick and poisonous
- The air has enough heat and pressure to crack spaceships.



- Earth is the only planet with flowing water to drink and air to breathe
- It takes the Earth 365 days to revolve around the sun
- It takes the Earth 24 hours to rotate about the sun
- Earth is close enough to the sun to keep it warm and far enough away to keep it cool
- The third planet from the sun is Earth
- Earth has one moon

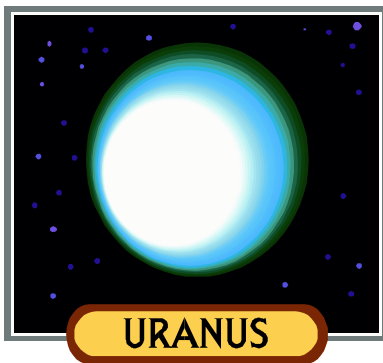
Name _____

- The air on Mars is full of reddish dust (that is why it is sometimes called the Red Planet)
- Mars is the fourth planet from the sun
- Scientists think Mars may have had water in rivers or oceans at one time
- Today Mars has ice at its poles
- Mars is a desert planet
- There are two small moons that orbit Mars (Phobos and Deimos)



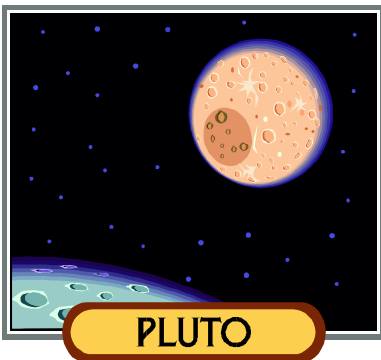
- Jupiter is the largest planet
 - Jupiter is the fifth planet from the sun
 - Jupiter is made up of gasses (it is called a Gas Giant)
 - There is no solid crust of land on Jupiter
- The Great Red Spot on Jupiter is a hurricane
 - Jupiter has a small ring system made of dust
 - There are 16 moons that orbit Jupiter

- Saturn is the sixth planet from the sun
- Saturn is the second largest planet
- There are hundreds of rings around Saturn
- Saturn's rings are made mostly of small pieces of ice
- Saturn has more than 20 moons, and scientists keep discovering new ones
- Saturn is also a Gas Giant



- Uranus is the seventh planet from the sun
 - All the planets but Uranus orbit the sun upright, but Uranus lies on its side (it's tilted)
 - The entire planet is covered by a thick blue-green fog
- Uranus is a Gas Giant
 - Uranus has rings
 - There are 15 moons that orbit Uranus

- Neptune is the eighth planet from the sun
- Neptune has 8 moons
- Blue clouds cover Neptune
- Neptune is a Gas Giant
- Neptune has rings
- Neptune has the Great Dark Spot (which is a storm like the Great Red Spot on Jupiter)
- The winds on Neptune are the fastest in the solar system



- Pluto is the smallest planet
- Pluto is the last planet in our Solar System (the furthest planet from the sun)
- Pluto is very cold because it does not receive much heat from the sun
- There is one large moon that orbits Pluto, Charon.
- Pluto's orbit is strange; it sometimes crosses the orbit of Neptune making Neptune the furthest planet from the sun for a few years.