Our Solar System

Do you ever look at the sky and wonder about the sun, the moon, or other planets? Our planet is one of many interesting objects that travel around our sun in what is called a solar system. Let’s learn more about our solar system and our neighbors in outer space!

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Find It!

Use the World Book search tool to find the answers to the questions below. Since this activity is about the solar system, you can find the answers by using the “Search” tool to search the key words “solar system.” Write the answers to the questions on the lines provided or in the space below each question.

1. A solar system is a group of objects that ________________ ________________ ________________.

2. In our solar system, which object do the other objects travel around? Circle the correct answer.
   a. Earth
   b. the moon
   c. the sun
   d. a comet

3. What is the largest object in our solar system?

4. Which of the choices below describe the sun’s outer layer? Circle the correct answer.
   a. cold and stormy
   b. hot and stormy
   c. cold and still
   d. hot and still

5. What is the flow of gases and particles from the sun’s surface called?
6. Name the four planets in our solar system that are made up mostly of iron and rocks.

7. What is the name of the band of small icy and rocky objects that orbit the sun beyond Neptune?

8. Pluto is large enough to be considered a _______________ planet.

9. Match each planet in column A with the number of moons that it has in column B.

   _____Earth    A. at least 63 moons
   _____Mars     B. at least 60 moons
   _____Jupiter  C. at least 27 moons
   _____Saturn   D. at least 13 moons
   _____Uranus   E. 2 moons
   _____Neptune  F. 1 moon

10. What are the planets’ rings made up of?

**True or False?**

Read the statements below and decide if the statements are true. Write YES next to the statement that is TRUE. Write NO next to the statement that is FALSE.

(YES) True, (NO) False

11. ________ Comets are made up mainly of fire.

12. ________ Comets in our solar system come from the Oort cloud or the Kuiper belt.

13. ________ The asteroid belt is located between the orbits of Jupiter and Saturn.

14. ________ The smallest asteroid in the asteroid belt is called Ceres.
15. _______ Meteoroids are smaller than asteroids.

16. _______ When a meteoroid reaches the ground, it is called a meteorite.

17. _______ Many scientists believe that our solar system formed from the solar nebula.

18. _______ The solar nebula was a giant, watery planet.

19. _______ As the solar nebula shrunk, it spun faster and formed into a ball shape.

20. _______ Scientists believe that the sun, moon, and other objects in our solar system were made as the solar nebula shrunk and spun.

Find It!

21-29. Find the vocabulary words hidden in the puzzle below and circle them with a pencil.

The words may be spelled out vertically (up and down), horizontally (across), or diagonally (slanted). Also, the words may be spelled in the right order, or they may be spelled backwards.

ASTEROID GANYMEDE ORBIT
CERES METEOROID PLUTOID
COMET NEBULA SOLAR

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Teacher Page

Answers:

1. A solar system is a group of objects that travels through space.
2. c. the sun
3. The sun
4. b. hot and stormy
5. The solar wind
6. Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars
7. The Kuiper belt
8. Pluto is large enough to be considered a dwarf planet.
9. F. Earth has 1 moon.
   E. Mars has 2 moons.
   A. Jupiter has at least 63 moons.
   B. Saturn has at least 60 moons.
   C. Uranus has at least 27 moons.
   D. Neptune has at least 13 moons.
10. Dust, rock, and ice chunks
11. False
12. True
13. False
14. False
15. True
16. True
17. True
18. False
19. False
20. True
21-29.

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