

Title: Looking at Stars and Planets

Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

atmosphere	craters	ammonia	gravity	tide
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1. Some craters on the Moon are big enough for us to see without a telescope.
2. The room smells like ammonia because I just washed the floor.
3. The Sun's gravity is much stronger than Earth's because of its size. —
4. At high tide, this beach is covered with water.
5. Meteoroids often burn up in Earth's atmosphere before reaching the ground.

Reading Comprehension

A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. The Sun has an atmosphere. T / F
2. Mercury is constantly changing. T / F
3. The surface of Mars is almost entirely flat. T / F
4. The Giant Red Spot is a storm on Jupiter. T / F
5. Asteroids are only found in the Asteroid Belt. T / F

B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. The Sun's (chromosphere / corona) give it its color.
2. (Venus / Mercury) is called the morning star.
3. Saturn's rings are mostly made of (hydrogen / ice).
4. The planet furthest from the Sun is (Uranus / Neptune).
5. Only a few moons are (similar to / different from) Earth's Moon.

C. Choose the best answer.

1. In the Sun's core, atoms are pushed together to form _____.
 - a. Hydrogen
 - b. Helium
 - c. Steam
 - d. Solar flares

2. Which is NOT required in order for an object to be called a planet?
 - a. It must be round.
 - b. It must orbit a star.
 - c. It must have a moon.
 - d. It must have strong gravity.

3. Which is NOT true about Jupiter?
 - a. It moves very slowly.
 - b. It has the shortest day.
 - c. It has small rings.
 - d. It is the largest planet.

4. What is different about Mars's moons?
 - a. Their color
 - b. Their size
 - c. Their shape
 - d. Their atmospheres

5. Titan, one of Saturn's moons, cannot have life because of its _____.
 - a. lack of water
 - b. lack of atmosphere
 - c. gravity
 - d. temperature

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

polar ice caps	comets	planets	orbits	methane
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In our solar system, everything orbits the Sun. Its extremely hot core is constantly producing energy that travels outward to the rest of the solar system. Our solar system has eight planets. The four closest to the Sun are rocky; besides Earth, these are Mercury, Venus, and Mars. Mars is called our sister planet because it has many of the same features, such as polar ice caps. After that come the gas giants: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Hydrogen makes up a large part of all these planets except Neptune, which is mostly methane. Six planets are orbited by one or more moons. The solar system also has millions of other objects. Space rocks called asteroids orbit the Sun. Small pieces of asteroids are called meteoroids. The largest non-planet objects are comets, made of ice, gas, and rocks. Beyond the planets lies the Kuiper Belt, where the dwarf planet Pluto is found. Even further away is the Oort cloud, which may contain a trillion comets. The solar system is crowded!