

Rainbow Readers

Title: Looking at Stars and Planets

Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

atmosphere

craters

ammonia

gravity

tide

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

In our solar system, everything _____ 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 _____. 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 _____. 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 _____. 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 _____, 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!