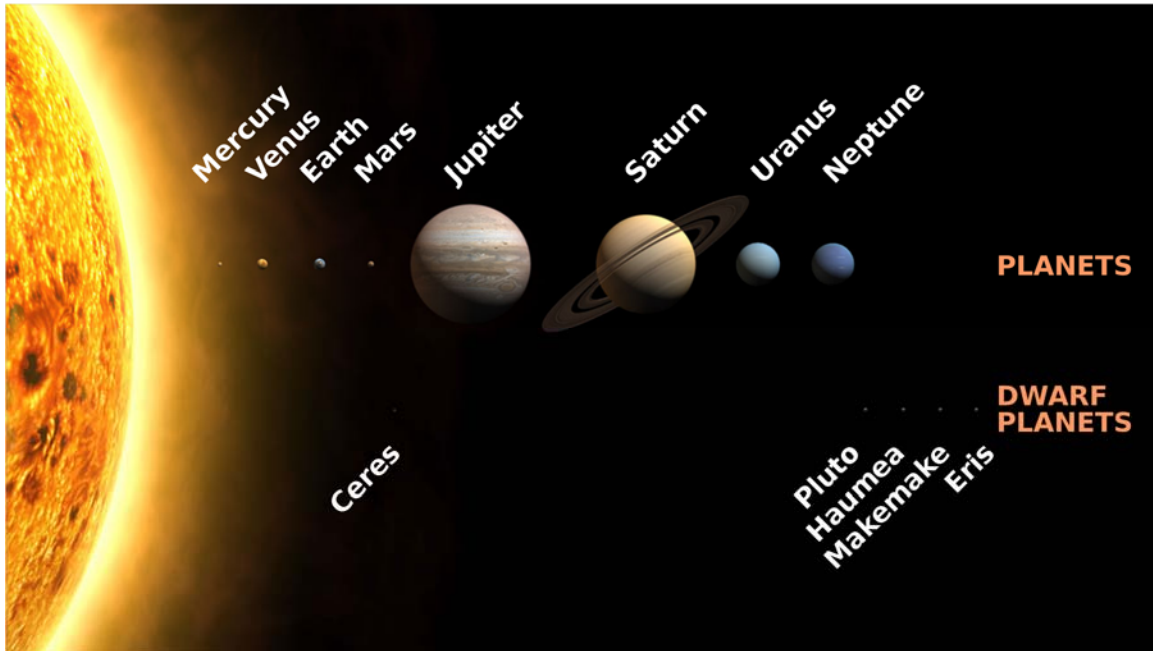


What is the Solar System?



The sun and eight planets make up our solar system. The sun gives off heat and light.

The planets move around the sun. They spin as they move. Mercury is one of those planets. It is closest to the sun.

Earth is one of those planets too. We live on Earth. As Earth spins, part of it faces the sun. That part of Earth is having daytime. The other part of Earth is dark then. The dark part is having nighttime.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: For questions 1-4, circle the correct answer.

1. What makes up the solar system?

- a) the sun and stars
- b) eight planets
- c) the sun and eight planets

2. The passage lists two planets in the solar system. What are the two planets listed?

- a) Mercury and Earth
- b) the Sun and Mercury
- c) Earth and the stars

3. The part of the Earth facing the sun is having daytime. Why is the other part of the Earth having nighttime?

- a) It is not facing the sun.
- b) It is closest to the sun.
- c) The planets move around the sun.

4. What is the theme of "What is the Solar System"?

- a) how we get daytime and nighttime
- b) facts about the solar system
- c) what planets are in the solar system

5. A) Picture the solar system in your mind. Where is the sun?

B) Draw a picture of the solar system. Be sure to include every part mentioned in the passage.



6. What did you learn from "What is the Solar System"?

7. **Class Discussion Question:** Why does the part of Earth facing the sun change?

Teacher Guide & Answers

Note to Teacher: Read each question out loud to your students and have each student complete the worksheet independently. For questions 5 A) and 6, you can have students draw their answers, answer orally, or write their answers depending on your students' progress. If you have them write their answers, you may want to write the word(s) on the board for them to copy. Question 7 is a class discussion question.

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 320

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4. What is the theme of "What is the Solar System"?

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- b) facts about the solar system**
- c) what planets are in the solar system

5. A) *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

Picture the solar system in your mind. Where is the sun?

Suggested answer: in the middle

B) Draw a picture of the solar system. Be sure to include every part mentioned in the passage.

Suggested answer: Students' pictures may vary but should include the sun surrounded by eight planets that are moving around the sun. Advanced pictures might include lines to indicate the orbit of each planet around the sun or the fact that the planets spin as they move. You could also challenge your students to label Earth and Mercury.

6. *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

What did you learn from "What is the Solar System"?

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage.

7. *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

Class Discussion Question: Why does the part of Earth facing the sun change?

Suggested answer: Answers may vary but students should explain that because the planets spin as they move around the sun, the part of Earth that is facing the sun is always changing. Advanced students will be able to explicitly state that this is why we have daytime and nighttime.