

What's Up In Space?

Places in Space

Space is an exciting place! Our solar system is in space. It is made up of the sun and the eight planets that travel around the sun. Our solar system also has moons, asteroids, and other space objects.

In the Center

The **sun** is at the center of our solar system. The sun is a hot, bright **star**. A star is a ball of hot gas. It gives off heat and light. The sun is the star closest to Earth. That is why it looks different from other stars. Most stars look tiny and can be seen only at night because they are so far away.

Around the Sun

A **planet** is a large ball made of rock or gas. Eight planets make up our solar system. You live on one of them—Earth! The others are Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Each planet moves in a path around the sun. The path is called an **orbit**.

Around Earth

Earth has one **moon**. It travels in an orbit around Earth. The moon is made of rock. It is covered with deep holes called craters. The moon may look as though it gives off light, but it does not. It looks bright when it reflects light from the sun.

Space Facts!

- The sun is so large that it could hold a million Earths.
- Earth is called the Blue Planet because it is covered in so much water.
- Some planets have many moons. Jupiter has the most. It has more than 60 moons.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is the sun?

- A a planet
- B a moon
- C a star
- D an asteroid

2. What does the author describe in the passage?

- A the objects in our solar system
- B the different stars in the universe
- C why Earth only has one moon
- D how the moon got its craters

3. Our sun does not look tiny like other stars because it is the closest star to Earth. What evidence from the passage supports this conclusion?

- A "The sun is at the center of our solar system. The sun is a hot, bright star."
- B "The sun is the star closest to Earth. That is why it looks different from other stars."
- C "A star is a ball of hot gas. It gives off heat and light."
- D "The sun is so large that it could hold a million Earths."

4. Read the following sentence: "Earth is called the Blue Planet because it is covered in so much water." Based on this information, what color does most of Earth look like from space?

- A green
- B brown
- C white
- D blue

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A facts about the sun
- B facts about our solar system
- C facts about planets
- D facts about the moon

6. Read the following sentences: "The moon may look as though it gives off light, but it does not. It looks bright when it **reflects** light from the sun."

As used in this sentence, what does "**reflects**" most nearly mean?

- A lets light pass through a surface
- B makes light go around an object
- C sends light back from a surface
- D stops light from going through an object

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Our solar system has many different objects, _____ planets, moons, and asteroids.

- A such as
- B but
- C so
- D then

8. What is at the center of our solar system?

9. Explain what an orbit is.

10. Name two objects in the solar system that orbit something else. Do they orbit the same thing or different things?

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 670

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8. What is at the center of our solar system?

Suggested answer: The sun is at the center of our solar system.

9. Explain what an orbit is.

Suggested answer: An orbit is a path around an object in space, such as the sun or a planet.

10. Name two objects in the solar system that orbit something else. Do they orbit the same thing or different things?

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage. Students can name two planets or a planet and a moon. If two planets, students should indicate that they both orbit the same object—the sun. If a planet and a moon, students should indicate that they orbit different things—the planet orbits the sun, and the moon orbits a planet.