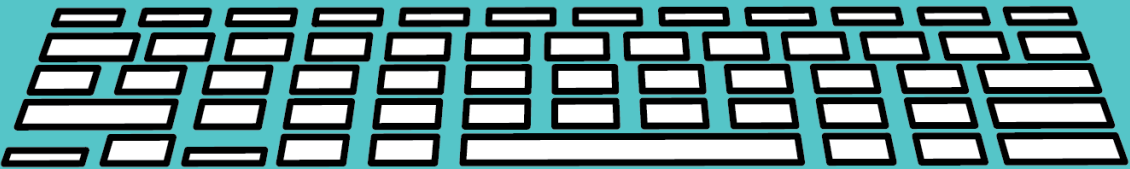
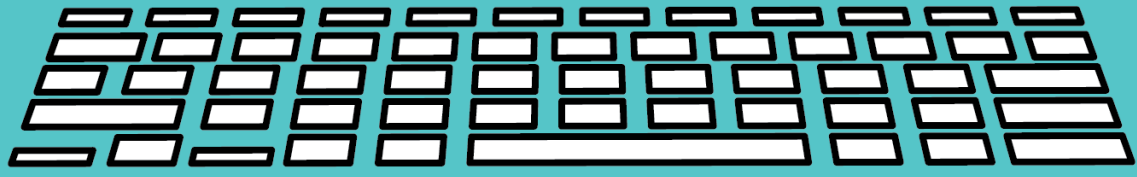


AS MANY
NO SPACE
PROBES
HAVE EVER
VISITED
NEPTUNE

Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. How many planets are in our Solar System?	
2. Which planet is the smallest of the Solar System?	
3. The tallest mountain is found on which planet?	
4. Which planet is sometimes called Earth's sister planet?	
5. Which planet is the largest in the Solar System?	
6. Saturn's rings are mostly made from chunks of what?	
7. What year was Uranus discovered?	
8. Which planet is closest to the Sun?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. How many planets are in our Solar System?		9. The Sun is a giant _____.	
2. Which planet is the smallest of the Solar System?		10. Saturn has at least _____ moons.	
3. The tallest mountain is found on which planet?		11. Comets often have a visible "_____" as they orbit the sun.	
4. Which planet is sometimes called Earth's sister planet?		12. The asteroid belt is an area between Mars and _____.	
5. Which planet is the largest in the Solar System?		13. Earth is the _____ planet from the Sun.	
6. Saturn's rings are mostly made from chunks of what?		14. Pluto is considered to be a _____ planet.	
7. What year was Uranus discovered?		15. _____ is the third brightest object in the sky.	
8. Which planet is closest to the Sun?		16. Mars is often referred to as the _____ Planet.	



SOLAR SYSTEM

Scientists believe that the Solar System was formed over 4.6 billion years ago. The Solar System includes the Sun, eight planets, dwarf planets, and smaller objects which orbit the Sun. It also includes clouds of dust and gas. The Sun is a giant ball of hot gases. The heat and energy from the Sun would not exist without the Sun.

The eight planets consist of Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

The four inner planets closest to the Sun are Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars. These planets are called terrestrial planets because they are smaller with a rocky surface. These planets have few or no moons.

The four planets furthest from the Sun are Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. These four planets are called gas giants because the large planets are composed of gas elements such as hydrogen and helium. The outer planets have more moons than the inner planets. Saturn has at least 62 moons.

Dwarf planets are similar to full planets, but they are not large enough. A few of the dwarf planets include Pluto, Eris, Ceres, Haumea, and Makemake. The major difference is that a full planet clears other objects in its orbit, while a dwarf planet has not.

The Solar System also includes comets which are made of ice, dust, carbon dioxide and rocks. Comets often have a visible "tail" as they orbit the sun. The visible tail is gas from solar radiation and solar winds.

Astronomers believe that comets start in the Kuiper belt or the Oort cloud. The Kuiper belt is an area of the Solar System beyond the orbit of planets that is believed to contain comets, asteroids, and other objects made of ice. The Oort cloud surrounds the entire Solar System in a spherical shape. It is like a thick bubble around our Solar System that houses icy objects.

© Mark Tarkenton

Asteroids are minor planets with an irregular shape that circle the sun in the asteroid belt. The asteroid belt is an area between Mars and Jupiter. Asteroids, or planetoids, revolve around the Sun.

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun. It is the smallest, yet fastest moving, of the eight planets. Mercury has no moons or rings.

Venus is the third brightest object in the sky after the Sun and Moon. It is sometimes referred to as Earth's sister planet because of their similar size, location and mass.

Earth is the third planet from the Sun and once believed to be the center of the universe. In 1543, Copernicus published his Sun-centered model of the Solar System. His theory put the Sun at the center of the solar system, not the Earth.

Mars is the second smallest planet in the Solar System. Mars is often referred to as the Red Planet because of the brownish-red soil. Olympus Mons, the tallest mountain in the Solar System is on Mars.

Jupiter is the largest planet in the Solar System. Jupiter has more than 60 moons. The four largest moons, the Galilean moons, were discovered in 1610 by Galileo Galilei.

Saturn is the sixth planet from the Sun and the fifth brightest object in the Solar System. Saturn is often referred to as the "Ringed Planet". Saturn's rings are mostly made from chunks of ice. Saturn is the only planet in the eight planets but has the strongest winds of any other planet.

Uranus was discovered in 1781 by William Herschel and named after the ancient Greek god Ouranos who is often called an "heavenly" planet due to its icy mantle. Uranus is often called an "ice giant" because of its icy mantle. Uranus is the second coldest planet in the Solar System with minimum surface temperatures of -224°C.

Neptune is not visible to the naked eye. It was discovered by Jean Joseph Le Verrier. Neptune has 14 known moons. Somewhat blue in color, Neptune was named after the Roman god of the Sea.

© Mark Tarkenton



**PLEASE VIEW
THE VIDEO TO
SEE HOW THIS
PRODUCT WORKS**