A Family of Planets

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Circle the letter of the best answer for each question.

1. Which of the following best describes the inner planets?
   a. hot, dry, and dense
   b. small, dense, and rocky
   c. large, light, and gaseous
   d. small, light, and solid

2. Which of these average distances is the astronomical unit based on?
   a. between Earth and the sun
   b. between Earth and the moon
   c. between Mercury and Neptune
   d. between Neptune and the sun

3. Why do planets with atmospheres have fewer impact craters?
   a. The air slows and burns smaller objects.
   b. Fewer objects orbit near these planets.
   c. Most impacts occur in remote areas.
   d. Many objects land in the oceans.

4. How do gas giants differ from terrestrial planets?
   a. They are much smaller.
   b. They are rocky and icy.
   c. They are made mostly of gases.
   d. They have hard surfaces.

5. Why is the planet Venus sometimes called Earth’s twin?
   a. Venus & Earth have about the same orbit.
   b. Venus is about the same size.
   c. Venus was born at about the same time.
   d. Venus rotates in about the same direction.
MATCHING

Read the description. Then, draw a line from the dot next to each description to the matching planet or moon.

6. This planet is well known for its ring system.
   ●
   a. Mercury

7. This is the largest planet in the solar system.
   ●
   b. Saturn

8. One day on this planet lasts almost two Earth months.
   ●
   c. Jupiter

9. This inner planet spins with a retrograde rotation.
   ●
   d. Venus

10. This planet is tipped on its side.
    ●

11. Thermal energy is released from inside this planet to produce belts of clouds.
    ●
    a. Mars

12. Scientists believe this planet is made of rock and ice.
    ●
    b. Uranus

13. This planet is cold because of its thin atmosphere and distance from the sun. It is also known as the “red planet”.
    ●
    d. Neptune
FILL-IN-THE-BLANK
Read the words in the box. Read the sentences. Fill in each blank with the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>period of rotation</th>
<th>period of revolution</th>
<th>lunar eclipse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>phases</td>
<td>solar eclipse</td>
<td></td>
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14. When the Earth’s shadow falls on the moon, a ______________________ occurs.

15. The amount of time an object takes to orbit around another body once is its ______________________.

16. The amount of time an object takes to rotate once is its ______________________.

17. The different appearances of the moon are called ______________________.

18. When the moon’s shadow falls on part of Earth, a ______________________ occurs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>asteroids</th>
<th>comets</th>
<th>meteors</th>
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19. Frozen bodies made of ice, rock, and dust are called ______________________.

20. Small, rocky bodies that revolve around the sun are called ______________________.

21. Bright streaks of light that result when rocky bodies burn up are called ______________________.
MATCHING

Draw a line from each term to the matching number on the picture.

22. Mars Venus

23. Saturn Neptune