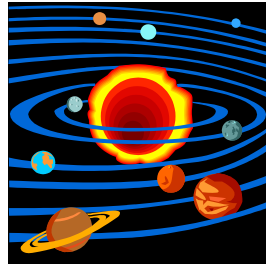


NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ PERIOD \_\_\_\_\_

Pretest



Posttest



**DIRECTIONS:** Put the letter of the best answer to the following question or statement on the line to the left of the selection. (1 point each)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. What is the name for the only planet that can support life, as we know it?  
(a) Mercury      (b) Venus      (c) Earth      (d) Mars
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. What is the name for the fourth planet from the Sun?  
(a) Mercury      (b) Earth      (c) Mars      (d) Jupiter
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. What is the name of the planet that has two natural satellites (moons)?  
(a) Mercury      (b) Earth      (c) Mars      (d) Jupiter
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. What are the two planets that have only one natural satellite?  
(a) Earth and Mars  
(b) Earth and Mercury  
(c) Earth and Pluto  
(d) Earth and Jupiter
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. There are four large gas giant planets, of them the largest is....  
(a) Saturn      (b) Neptune      (c) Uranus      (d) Jupiter
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. What is the name for the planet that is closest to the sun?  
(a) Mercury      (b) Venus      (c) Earth      (d) Mars
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. What is the name of the planet that has two natural satellites?  
(a) Mercury      (b) Venus      (c) Earth      (d) Mars
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. There are two planets that have no natural satellites, what are their names?  
(a) Earth and Mars  
(b) Mars and Venus  
(c) Mercury and Venus  
(d) Mars and Pluto

Short answer response question: List two characteristics that all the inner planets possess. Make sure that your answer is legible and in complete sentences. (Spelling does count) (2pts.)

Extended response question: Explain why some planets have more natural satellites, and more atmosphere than others. Make sure that your answer is legible and in complete sentences. (Spelling does count) (4pts.)

*Rubric for short answer response:* The two characteristics that all the inner planets possess is that they are **small** and **solid (terrestrial)**.

*Rubric for extended answer response:* The reason that some planets have an atmosphere and more natural satellites is that they are **larger**, thus possessing **more gravity** which allows them to hold both more gas (atmosphere) and more orbiting bodies (natural satellites). There are some exceptions in that Pluto is small but does have one natural satellite (no known atmosphere- probably because of extreme low temperature), Venus, which is about the same size as Earth but has no satellites, and Mars which is about half the size of Earth but has two satellites.

## **KEY FOR PRE/POST TEST MULTIPLE CHOICE SECTION**

1.C Earth What is the only planet that can support life as we know it

2.C Mars What is the name for the fourth planet from the Sun

3.C Mars What is the name for the planet that has two natural satellites

4.C Earth and Pluto What are the names for the two planets that have only one natural satellite

5.D Jupiter There are four large gas giant planets, of them the largest is

6A Mercury What is the name for the planet that is closest to the Sun?

7.D Mars What is the name of the planet that has two natural satellites

8.C Mercury and Venus There are two planets that have no natural satellites, what are their names

Activity Sheet for Planet Description

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ PERIOD \_\_\_\_\_



PLANET NAME                      LOCATION FROM SUN                      COMPOSITION                      NUMBER OF SATELLITES

ASTEROID BELT                      BETWEEN Mars and Jupiter                      SOLID                      THOUSANDS