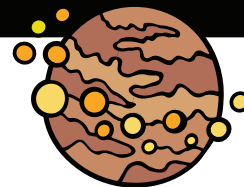


The Planets



There is only one planet that humans can live on. This planet is called Earth. It is our home. Our Solar System has eight planets. All of the planets are different. Some are very hot. Some are freezing cold. Some are small. Some are gigantic!

Mercury

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun. It is the smallest planet. Mercury has lots of holes on its surface. These holes are called craters. Mercury is really, really hot in the day. But it's really, really cold at night.

Venus

Venus is small and rocky. Venus is covered in thick, yellow clouds. These clouds aren't safe at all. They are poisonous! Venus is very, very hot. Humans could never live there.

Earth

Earth is the third planet from the Sun. It is our home! There is a lot of life on Earth. It is not too hot. It is not too cold. Also, the air is safe to breathe. 71% of Earth is covered in water. Earth has one moon. You can see it shining at night.

Earth is over 4 billion years old!

Mars

Mars has a red colour. It is smaller than Earth. Mars has lots of craters and rocks. Mars also has really big volcanoes. They look scary! Mars is cold and

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. Which is the only planet that humans can live on?
2. Which is the biggest planet?
3. How many rings does Saturn have?
4. Which is the coldest planet?

nothing lives there. There are some humans who want to explore Mars. That would be a dangerous trip!

Jupiter

Jupiter is gigantic! It is the biggest planet. Jupiter is made of swirling gas. Jupiter is incredibly hot. Jupiter has lots of storms. The biggest storm is called 'The Great Red Spot'. It has been going on for 200 years. Now, that is bad weather!

Saturn

Saturn is made of gas. It is surrounded by seven beautiful rings. The rings are made of water, ice and bits of rock. Some bits of rock are as tiny as salt grains. Other bits are the size of a house! Saturn has 18 moons. More than any other planet.

Uranus

Uranus is an ice giant. It is made of swirling rock and ice. Uranus has 15 moons. Uranus is nearly the coldest planet. It looks blue. It takes Earth 365 days to make one trip around the sun. It takes Uranus 84 years to do that!

Neptune

Neptune is the furthest planet from the Sun. It is made of ice and rock. It is the coldest planet in our solar system! It's freezing! Neptune also has the fastest winds. They blow at 2000km an hour! It would not be a safe place to visit!

Let's stay on Earth... for now.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

V

Which words tells you that Saturn's rings look pretty?

I

Why aren't the clouds on Venus safe?

V

What are the holes in Mercury's surface called?

R

How many planets are there in total?

Answers

1. Earth
2. Jupiter
3. Seven
4. Neptune

V: Beautiful

I: They are poisonous

V: Craters

R: Eight