

Circle the number of the facts about the planets that you were able to recall. If you do not have a printer, please write down the numbers in your Rough Draft book.

Please ask you parents to take a photo of this and send it through to me.

Facts About the Planets of Our Solar System

1. There are 8 planets in our Solar System.
2. Their order from closest to the Sun out is: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.
3. The planets orbit around the Earth following an elliptical path.
4. The planets orbit anti-clockwise around the Sun.
5. One orbit around the Sun (or one revolution) is called a year.
6. Mercury has the shortest year (88 Earth days) and Neptune has the longest year (165 Earth years).
7. The planets orbit around the Earth at different speeds.
8. All the planets spin on an axis.
9. Seven planets spin in an anti-clockwise direction on their axes and 1 spins in a clockwise direction.
10. One spin (or rotation) on a planet's axis is called a day.
11. The planets spin at different rates so therefore have different length days.
12. Venus has the longest day (243 Earth days).
13. Jupiter and Saturn have the shortest day (10 hours).
14. The planets all have tilted axes (though according to some sources Mercury doesn't have a tilt).
15. Mercury's tilt is on the smallest angle at 0.1 degree and Venus' is on the greatest angle at 177 degrees.

16. Uranus' angle is almost 90 degrees so it looks like it is spinning on its side.
17. The sizes of the planets vary greatly.
18. The first 4 planets are significantly smaller than the last 4.
19. Mercury is the smallest planet; about the same size as our moon.
20. Jupiter is the largest planet; it could comfortably hold 1,321 Earth's inside it.
21. There is a vast difference in distance between the planets and their distance from the Sun.
22. The planets closer to the Sun are hotter than those further away.
23. Atmosphere affects temperature, so Mercury is not the hottest planet despite being the closest planet to the Sun.
24. The first 4 planets are terrestrial planets which means they are primarily made up of rock and metals, have solid surfaces and are smaller in size.
25. The last 4 planets are Jovian planets which means they are primarily made up of gases or ice, have no solid surface and are immense.