

KS2 Reading Comprehension

The Solar System

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=libKVRa01L8>

1. How many known solar systems are in the Milky Way?
2. How many planets revolve around the sun?
3. List them all.
4. Terrestrial planets have rings around them. True or false?
5. Earth is a Jovian planet. True or false?
6. Which planet is closest to the sun?
7. Explain why Venus has temperatures of up to 867 degrees Fahrenheit.
8. When did Mars last support life?
9. Draw lines to sort these planets into Gas Giants and Ice Giants. One has been done for you.

Jupiter

**Gas Giant** Neptune **Ice Giant**

Uranus

Saturn

1. Fill in the gaps with either ‘Giant’ or ‘Ice.’

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of Planet** | **Features of Planet** |
| \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Giants | Predominantly helium and hydrogen |
| \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Giants | Contain rock, water, methane and ammonia |

1. “All four Jovian planets are immense in size.”

Give three synonyms for the word “immense.”

1. How wide are Saturn’s signature rings?
2. What is Uranus famous for?
3. What is the Oort Cloud?
4. Why is the Oort Cloud considered the edge of the solar system? Explain your answer.
5. “Our solar system’s particular configuration of planets and other celestial objects, all revolving around a life-giving star, make it a special place to call home.”

Explain why the word “our” has been used here.

Answers

1. Over 500
2. 8
3. Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune.
4. False
5. False
6. Mercury
7. It is due to an atmosphere of carbon dioxide and extensive lava flows.
8. 3.7 billion years ago.
9. Gas Giants: Jupiter & Saturn

Ice Giants: Uranus & Neptune

1. Gas Giants

Ice Giants

1. Various: huge, giant, massive
2. Barely a kilometre thick or 0.62 miles
3. Rotating on its side
4. Vast, spherical collection of icy debris, considered the edge of the solar system
5. Because that is where the gravitational and physical influences of the sun end.
6. Various answers relating to our possession of the solar system and it belonging to us