DoodleBeez Worksheets

Grade 4 | Reading

Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Solar System: Reading Comprehension

Nonfiction: Science · about 210 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

The Solar System

Our solar system is made up of the sun and everything that travels around it. This includes eight planets, their moons, dwarf planets like Pluto, and millions of asteroids and comets.

The sun is a star at the center of the solar system. It is so big that more than one million Earths could fit inside it. The sun's gravity holds the planets in their paths, or orbits.

The four planets closest to the sun are Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars. They are called the rocky planets because they have hard, rocky surfaces. Venus is the hottest planet because its thick clouds trap heat. Mars is called the Red Planet because of the reddish dust that covers it.

Beyond Mars is the asteroid belt, a ring of rocky chunks orbiting the sun. Past the asteroid belt are the four giant planets: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. They are mostly made of gases or ices and have no solid surface to stand on. Jupiter is the largest planet. Saturn is famous for its beautiful rings, which are made of ice and rock.

Earth is the only planet known to have life. It is just the right distance from the sun to have liquid water, which all living things need.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?
   A. the sun, planets, and other objects in our solar system B. the life of astronauts
   C. how to see stars at night D. how rockets fly

2. **Detail:** What holds the planets in their orbits?
   A. Earth's moon B. strong winds C. the sun's gravity D. magnets

3. **Detail:** Why is Venus the hottest planet?
   A. Its thick clouds trap heat. B. It is the biggest. C. It is made of fire. D. It has no clouds.

4. **Detail:** What lies between Mars and Jupiter?
   A. Saturn's rings B. Earth C. the asteroid belt D. the moon

5. **Detail:** Which is the largest planet?
   A. Jupiter B. Mars C. Earth D. Saturn

6. **Inference:** Why can Earth support life?

ANSWER KEY

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5. **Detail:** Which is the largest planet?
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6. **Inference:** Why can Earth support life?
   It is the right distance from the sun to have liquid water.