

THE SOLAR SYSTEM - KEY

1. Name the eight planets of the solar system : **Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune**
2. What is the status of Pluto ? **a dwarf planet**
3. How did the solar system develop ? **out of a big cloud of dust and gas**
4. What is the name of our galaxy ? **Milky Way**
5. What is the sun made up of ? **helium and hydrogen**
6. What does nuclear fusion produce ? **heat and light**
7. What is a solar flare ? **explosions , when the sun's magnetic fields collide**
8. What happens during a solar eclipse? **the Earth passes through the moon's shadow; the sun is blocked from our view**
9. What does Mercury's surface look like? What can you compare it with ? **rocky, hit by asteroids, like the moon's surface**
10. Describe the atmosphere of Venus ? **clouds are thick and yellow, atmosphere made up of poisonous gases, mostly sulphur**
11. What happens when carbon dioxide freezes on Mars ? **it turns white and forms ice caps**
12. Why was the *Mars Pathfinder* mission important ? **a vehicle moved around the planet and collected rocks**
13. How long does it take for Jupiter to orbit the sun ? **12 years**
14. What did the *Galileo* spacecraft find out about Jupiter ? **the atmosphere is dense and filled with sulphur and other poisonous gases**
15. Who discovered Saturn's ring system ? **Galileo**
16. Why are there such strong winds on Saturn ? **because the planet rotates so quickly**
17. What color does Neptune appear to have ? What is the atmosphere made up of ? **green-bluish, frozen methane**
18. What is the most unusual thing about Uranus ? **the poles are pointed directly at the sun**
19. What happens to Pluto when it gets closer to the sun ? **frozen gas melts and clouds form**
20. What is the moon's gravity compared to Earth ? **one sixth**
21. What does the "*dark side of the moon*" mean ? **one side of the moon always faces away from Earth**
22. What does the ozone layer protect us from ? **dangerous ultraviolet rays**
23. What is the Earth's core made up of ? **liquid iron and nickel**
24. What does a comet consist of ? What type of orbit does it have ? **ice, dust and other gases; elliptical orbit**
25. Where is the asteroid belt located ? **between Mars and Jupiter**
26. What happens to meteorites when they enter our atmosphere ? **most of them burn up in the atmosphere**