

Solar System Practice Test

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1. What is Jupiter's most volcanically active moon?
a)Ganymede b)Io c)Europa d)Callisto e)Leda
2. Which planet in our solar system has the highest average surface temperature?
3. The space probe Magellan was sent to what planet?
4. What is the average length of a solar cycle?
5. Is or was there ever water in the seas of the moon?
6. Which planet does the moon Titan orbit?
a)Mars b)Jupiter c)Saturn d)Uranus e)Neptune
7. Which planet does the moon Europa orbit?
a)Mars b)Jupiter c)Saturn d)Uranus e)Neptune
8. What are Mars's two major satellites?
9. How many moons does Mercury have?
10. On what planet in our solar system is the volcano Olympus Mons is located?

Match the following words to their definitions:

11. Tektite
12. Aphelion
13. Faculae
14. Zenith
15. Ablation
16. Eccentricity
17. Penumbra
18. Sunspots
19. Plasma
20. Heliopause
- A. A process by where the atmosphere melts away and removes the surface material of an incoming meteorite.
- B. A point directly overhead from an observer
- C. A form of ionized gas in which the temperature is too high for atoms to exist in their natural state, composed of free electrons and free atomic nuclei.
- D. A small, glassy material formed by the impact of a large body, usually a meteor or asteroid, commonly found at the sites of meteor craters.
- E. The point in space at which the solar wind meets the interstellar medium or solar wind from other stars
- F. Bright patches that are visible on the Sun's surface, or photosphere.
- G. The point in the orbit of a planet or other celestial body where it is farthest from the Sun.
- H. The area of partial illumination surrounding the darkest part of a shadow caused by an eclipse.
- I. The measure of how an object's orbit differs from a perfect circle
- J. Areas of the Sun's surface that are cooler than surrounding areas. They usually appear black on visible light photographs of the Sun and are usually associated disturbances in the Sun's electromagnetic field.

21. Which are larger: a) solar flares b) prominences
22. What causes sunspots?
23. How do you describe the way the moon rotates and revolves around the Earth?
(One orbit equals one rotation)
24. Which planet of the solar system is the least dense?
25. Which is the largest planet in the solar system?
26. Which is the smallest planet in the solar system?
27. What subatomic particles cause light pressure?
28. Which planet is the densest in our solar system?
29. Does Mars have polar ice caps?
30. Name a comet that passes by Earth regularly.
31. Approximately how old is our sun?
32. About how many miles is an AU (Astronomical Unit)
33. What are a planets rings mainly composed of?
34. Which planet has a massive storm on its surface that has a diameter of twice the earth's diameter? Name that storm.
35. Which planet has its magnetic and geographical poles drastically misaligned?
36. Which belt of asteroids, ice, and rock orbits the sun and is located outside the orbit of the dwarf planet Pluto?
37. What planet or moon in our solar system has a vast surface coating of ice?
38. What planet does the moon Triton orbit?
39. Name two features of the Sun that can cause interference in satellites in the Earth's atmosphere.

40. What dwarf planet is Charon a moon of?
41. Which planet in our solar system rotates around its axis once approximately every ten hours?
42. Which of the four terrestrial planets in our solar system has sulfuric acid clouds in its atmosphere?
43. What is the tail of a comet called?
44. What is the name for the lunar phase between half and full phases?
45. What is the duration of a lunar revolution to the nearest half day?
46. What causes granulation in the sun?
47. What is the name for the layer of the sun that emits the most electromagnetic radiation?
48. What are Van Allen belts?
49. Which is the smallest of the eight planets in our solar system?
50. What causes solar wind?