

THE INNER PLANETS**/25****Similar Characteristics**

Listed below are descriptions of the inner planets. In the blank at the left write the code for the one or more planets that match the description. The first one is done for you.

Mercury = M	Venus = V	Earth = E	Mars = R
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MVER 1. rocky planet

_____ 2. clouds of sulfuric acid

_____ 3. similar in size and mass; twins

_____ 4. has the largest volcano in the solar system, Olympus Mons

_____ 5. rifts on the surface or under water

_____ 6. closest to the sun

_____ 7. smallest inner planet

_____ 8. south pole covered with frozen carbon dioxide

_____ 9. Its atmospheric pressure is 91 times Earth's.

_____ 10. farthest inner planet from the sun

_____ 11. moves in an elliptical orbit, but is close to a perfect circle

_____ 12. situated between Venus and Mars

_____ 13. red planet due to iron oxide (rust)

_____ 14. Its surface looks like Earth's moon.

_____ 15. has a greenhouse effect

_____ 16. Water exists in all three states.

_____ 17. appears to have no life

GAS	VENUS	EARTH	MARS
CO₂	95%	0.03%	95%
N₂	3.5%	78.1%	2.7%
O₂	0.002%	20.9%	0.15%
H₂O	0.01%	0.05 to 4%	0.03%

18. EXPLORE!

The percentage of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere of Venus and Mars is the same. Is the TOTAL amount of carbon dioxide also the same? Explain.

The Outer Planets AKA the Gaseous Giants

In each of the following statements, a key word or phrase has been scrambled. Unscramble the word and write it on the correct line in the puzzle.

1. **Yagnedem** is the largest satellite in the solar system.
2. **Hatenem** is a gas that absorbs red and yellow light from the sun.
3. If **stunar** were placed in water, it would float.
4. Uranus and Neptune are both colored **lebu-ergne**.
5. **Oi** is the most volcanically active object in the solar system.
6. **Nausur** is a planet whose axis lies on its side in space.
7. Jupiter has **tevesny-enni** moons.
8. A series of **gnirs** circle Saturn.
9. The **Yogarve** space probe provided scientists with information on gaseous giant planets.
10. Scientists no longer consider **Tolup** a planet, but rather a planetesimal.
11. The **Trage der post** is a huge storm of swirling gas on Jupiter.

- 1] _____
- 2] _____
- 3] _____
- 4] _____ -- _____
- 5] _____
- 6] _____
- 7] _____ -- _____
- 8] _____
- 9] _____
- 10] _____
- 11] _____

12] Why will we never make our home on one of the gas giants?

Distances not to scale.

13] Which planets are less than one astronomical unit from the sun?

