



## Planet - What would it be like to live on another planet? M, V, E, M, J, S, U, N, P.

### Fact

- There are nine planets in our solar system, but there's not one other planet like earth because scientists have not found signs of life on any other planet!
- Planet Earth has the right chemicals and temperatures to support life.
- Mercury is solid, like earth and closest to the sun and it has the greatest temperature changes; from  $-185$  degrees Celsius (water freezes at  $0$  degrees) to  $425$  degrees Celsius (water boils at  $100$  degrees).
- Venus is next and it's the hottest planet in our solar system at  $500$  degrees Celsius (forget about boiling an egg it would boil the metal on your pot!) Some people say its Earth's twin.
- Mars is a dry rocky planet with ice caps on its mountaintops. It also has huge dust storms of rust red dust.
- Jupiter is so big you could fit Planet Earth into it nearly a  $1000$  times! It's mostly made up of gases so you couldn't land a rocket on it because it doesn't have a solid surface.
- Saturn is also made of gases and it's surrounded by rings of debris floating in its atmosphere. It also has about  $18$  moons.
- Uranus is another planet made up mostly of gases though it also has large chunks of rock and ice.
- Neptune is mostly made up of methane gas and it has terrible windstorms. In fact it has the fastest windstorms of all the planets.
- Pluto is so far away from the sun it's in complete darkness and it's tiny – it's not even as big as our moon.

### Do you know

- Astronomers are scientists who study stars and space.
- Planets can be seen at night – they're the stars that don't twinkle.
- Astronomers know more about Venus, Mars, Mercury and Jupiter because they're much closer to Earth than the other planets. Astronomers can see them more clearly with high-powered telescopes and space shuttles like Hubble and Voyager can get very close to them and take photos.

### Experiments you can do

Find out when the planets are visible and what time, which direction and what angle in the sky to look for them.

On a clear night see if you can spot any stars that don't seem to "twinkle" these are planets.

### Other Investigations

1 Earth year is 365 days.

1 year on Mercury is 88 earth days.

1 year on Neptune is 165 earth years!

Work out how old you would be if you moved to Mercury – 4 birthdays in one year! If you were five Earth years old here you'd be 20 Mercury years old there!

### Jokes

What planet can play a tune? Nep-tune (Neptune)

Love Olivia Putnam