

Name _____

SOLAR SYSTEM STUDY GUIDE

Facts About the Sun

- Earth's heat, light, weather, climate and life depend on the sun.
- The sun is a star around which Earth and other planets orbit.
- The sun appears bigger and brighter than other stars because it is so much closer to Earth.

Facts About Earth's ROTATION

- The sun appears to travel through the sky in a daily predictable pattern.
- The Earth rotates (or spins) around an imaginary line through its center called an **axis**.
- Earth's complete rotation takes 24 hours or one day.
- Earth's rotation causes night and day.

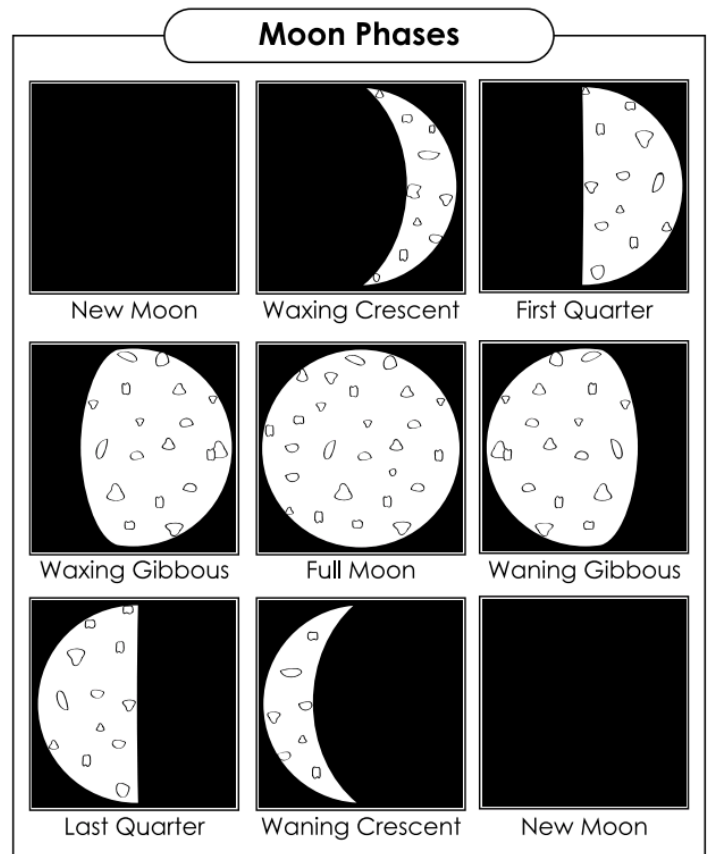
Facts About Earth's REVOLUTION

- The Earth **revolves** or travels around the sun.
- It takes 365 days (one year) for the Earth to revolve around the sun.
- Earth's revolution causes the seasons.

Facts About the Moon

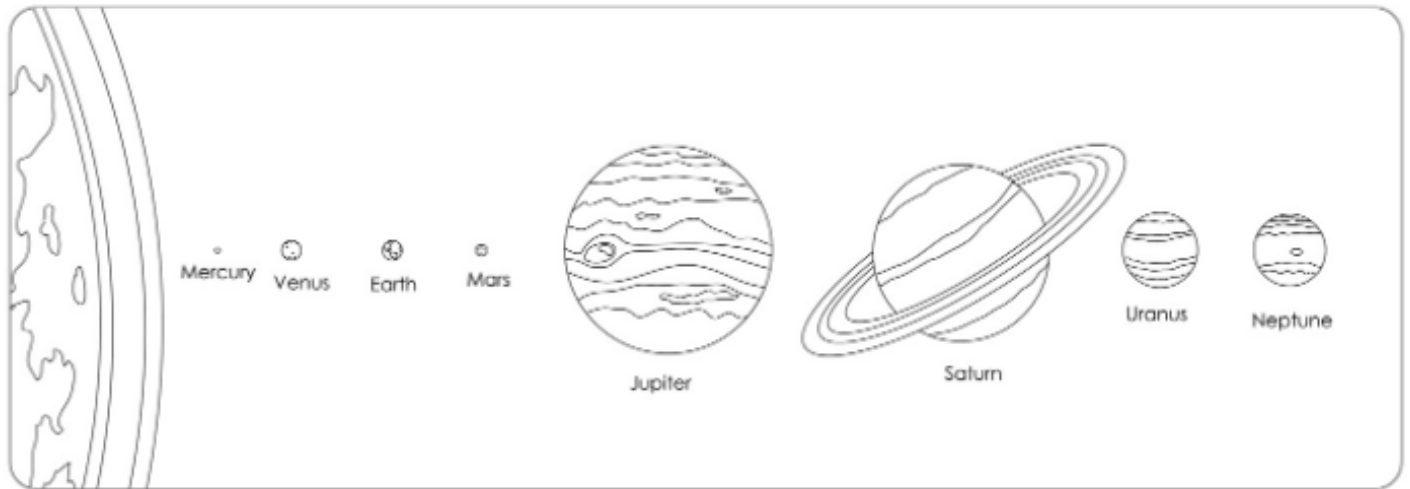
- The moon goes through phases that we can see from Earth.
- The surface of the moon has many deep holes called **craters**.
- The **moon** is the closest object in the solar system to Earth.
- The moon orbits Earth and shines by reflecting the sun's light.

On the test, the phases of the moon will need to be identified. Four of the phases will be missing from this chart. →



Facts About the Planets

- There are **eight** planets in our solar system.
- The **asteroid belt** separates the inner planets from the outer planets. It is found between Mars and Jupiter.
- Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are the only planets to have rings. Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune's rings are much dimmer than Saturn's.



On the test, your child will be asked to fill in four missing planets on a diagram in order from their distance from the sun.

Helpful Hint: My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Nachos!

Note to parents...

This study guide is going home at the start of our unit. Please, refer to our classroom newsletter. This will allow you to see what material has been covered in class as you study. This study guide presents the information in the same order the lessons will be presented in class. We will be going more in depth in class for each of the topics, but this study guide has all the information you will need to prepare for our paper and pencil test. Other in class assignments and projects will be graded. Third grade is a great time to start instilling good study habits. By studying as we go through the unit, your child should be prepared for the test. This study guide can also be found on my teacher website.