DAILY Warm-Up 2

Name _____ Date _____

THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

The adult brain weighs about three pounds. This doesn't seem like much, but it is one of the most important organs in the human body. The brain is made up of millions of nerve cells. These nerve cells tell the rest of the body what to do. Without a brain, we could not live. The spinal chord is connected to the brain. It runs from our neck down through our back. The spinal chord and the brain make up what is called the central nervous system.

The brain is like the body's computer. It controls body temperature and reminds us to breathe. The brain allows the body to have voluntary movement, thought, language, and reasoning. Different parts of the brain have different jobs. The brain tells us when we are hungry and thirsty. It also is responsible for memory and emotion.

Our brain relies on food to give it energy. You need to eat healthy foods to keep your brain and the rest of your body working right. Healthy foods like fruits, vegetables, cereals, grains, milk, and other dairy products are all important foods for us to eat. We also need to keep our brains active. Research has shown that the less active our brain is, the less we are able to remember and do. So keep thinking, moving, and doing. It's great for your brain.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. After reading the passage, what do you think would happen if your brain was injured?
   a. It would immediately double in size.
   b. Our bodies might not be able to perform certain things.
   c. The heart would begin to take over the body.
   d. Doctors have not yet determined what happens in this case.
2. The main idea of this passage is . . .
   a. to inform the reader about what happens when they are thinking.
   b. to inform the reader about the connection between the heart and brain.
   c. to inform the reader about how important healthy food is to the brain.
   d. to share general information about the brain and the spinal chord and how they work.
3. Where can you find information about the spinal chord?
   a. second paragraph
   b. not in the passage
   c. third paragraph
   d. first paragraph

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 3

Name _____ Date _____

MERCURY

Did you know that Mercury is the closest planet to the sun? It is also the eighth-largest planet. This means that it is not a very big planet. Mercury has been visited by one spacecraft. The name of the spacecraft was the *Mariner 10*. It flew by Mercury three times. In many ways, Mercury is very similar to the moon. There are a lot of craters on Mercury. Mercury does not have any known moons.

When looking up at the sky, it is sometimes possible to see Mercury with a pair of binoculars around sunrise or sunset. The temperature on Mercury can be very extreme. It is so close to the sun that it gets very hot during the day, but very cold at night. Mercury is about 36 million miles away from the sun. As far as we know, Mercury does not have any water, and it is black and brown in color. Mercury rotates on its axis very slowly but orbits the sun very quickly.

The surface of Mercury seems to show that there may have been volcanoes at one time on Mercury. Mercury orbits so close to the sun that sometimes it can be hard to see. Mercury is never far from the sun in the sky. The glare of the sun is so bright that you can see Mercury best at twilight.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following statements is not found in the reading passage?
   a. Mercury is the closest planet to the sun.
   b. Mercury orbits close to the sun, so it is hard to see at times.
   c. Mercury is one-third the size of Earth.
   d. It is believed that there were once volcanoes on Mercury.

2. What inferences can you make about Mercury, being it is the closest planet to the sun?
   a. There are probably glaciers there.
   b. It is very hot in temperature.
   c. It is the most likely planet to have life on it.
   d. It is made up of all gases.

3. Mercury revolves very _____ around the sun.
   a. quickly
   b. inverted
   c. steadily
   d. slowly

4. The purpose of the third paragraph is to . . .
   a. inform the reader about Mercury's surface.
   b. inform the reader about Mercury's temperatures.
   c. inform the reader on how best to see Mercury in the sky.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 4

Name _____ Date _____

URANUS

Uranus sits at the far end of the solar system, between Saturn and Neptune. These outer planets are made of very different material than the inner planets. Uranus is mostly made up of frozen gas. The inside of Uranus is made up of methane gas. The methane gas gives the planet a blue-green color. Uranus is also covered with clouds.

Uranus is the fourth-largest object in the solar system. It is the seventh planet from the sun. It has been discovered that Uranus has 27 moons and lots of rings. These rings are shaped differently than the rings of Saturn or Jupiter. Uranus has partial rings. The rings are very faint and hard to see. The moons are icy and have no atmosphere. There is not much possibility that there is life on Uranus.

The *Voyager II* flew by Uranus and was able to get 7,000 pictures of Uranus, its rings, and its moons. The *Voyager II* was launched in 1977 and arrived in 1986. That is one long trip!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What does the word *partial* mean?
   a. related to particles
   b. incomplete
   c. orbits the sun in one year
   d. see-through

2. Why did it take so long to get pictures of Uranus?
   a. Uranus does not have an atmosphere
   b. Uranus has just recently been discovered.
   c. It takes a very long time to get to Uranus.
   d. The *Voyager II* had difficulty getting to Uranus.

3. What does the passage say about how the rings of Uranus compare to the rings of Jupiter and Saturn?
   a. They are shaped differently.
   b. They are made up of different materials.
   c. They are longer rings.
   d. They are made up of methane gas.

4. Which of the following statements is not a fact about Uranus?
   a. It is the fourth-largest planet in the solar system.
   b. It is made up of methane gas.
   c. It has 27 moons.
   d. There is the good possibility of life on Uranus.

LIVEWORKSHEETS