

Science: the solar system

Ex. 1

Read the text. Where do you think the numbers go? Drag them to the right place in the text. (Read in your coursebook because of better print.)

4 165 460 100 365 143,000 150 9

THE SOLAR SYSTEM

1 There are eight planets in our solar system. Until 2006 there were but scientists decided that Pluto wasn't big enough to be a planet.

2 At the centre of our solar system is the Sun. The Sun is one of billions of stars in our galaxy – The Milky Way. It isn't a very big star, but it's over times bigger than the Earth. The Earth is approximately million kilometres from the Sun. All the planets are in orbit around the Sun. That means they go round the Sun.

3 Mars is often called the 'Red Planet'. It's smaller than the Earth and much colder, but some scientists think that there was water on Mars a long time ago – and possibly life, too.

4 The large planets – Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune – are made of gas. Neptune is the furthest planet from the Sun. Temperatures can fall to -219°C . Neptune takes years to go round the Sun.

5 The nearest planet to the Sun is Mercury. It's also the smallest planet.

6 Venus is about the same size as the Earth and it's our nearest neighbour, but it's very different. Venus has a thick, poisonous atmosphere and nothing can live there. The temperature on Venus is about $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

7 The Earth has a diameter of 12,756km. It takes approximately days to go round the Sun.

8 Jupiter is the largest planet. Its diameter is km. Jupiter has got large moons and many more small ones. There's a large red spot on its surface. Scientists think it's a huge storm.

Watch the video with the song about planets to learn their names better.

Ex. 2

Read the text again. Find the planets described below.

- _____ the largest in our solar system
- _____ the smallest
- _____ the furthest from the Sun
- _____ the nearest to the Sun
- _____ about the same size as the Earth
- _____ the nearest to the Earth
- _____ the one called »Red Planet«

Ex. 3

Answer the questions. Find the answers below and drag them to the questions.

- 1 How many planets are there?
- 2 What happened to Pluto?
- 3 What is the Sun?
- 4 What is the name of our galaxy?
- 5 Why can't anything live on Venus?
- 6 What is Jupiter's red spot?
- 7 What can't a spaceship land on Saturn?

Because Saturn is made of gas.

It has a thick, poisonous atmosphere and a temperature of 460 degrees Celsius.

The central star of our solar system.

The Milky Way.

Scientists think it's a huge storm.

Eight.

In 2006, scientists decided it wasn't big enough to be a planet.