



Name _____ Date _____

VENUS

Venus is the second planet from the sun. Venus was named after the goddess of beauty and love. It is the sixth-largest planet. It has been known as the brightest planet. For millions of years, humans have noticed Venus.

The first spacecraft to Venus was in 1962. There have been many visits since then. The rotation of Venus is very unusual. It rotates very slowly and in a direction opposite that of the other planets. Venus is very similar to Earth. It is about the same size. They are also made of similar materials. The surface of Venus, however, has too much carbon dioxide to have any life.

Venus is quite dry. It used to have water (like Earth), but it has dried up. On the surface, Venus has slow winds. There are strong winds on the top of the clouds. Venus does not have a moon. Venus is almost always covered with clouds. The surface of Venus has small craters all over it. Venus also has lots of volcanoes on it. Venus is a fascinating planet.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What are the author's feelings about Venus?
 - a. indifferent
 - b. disapproves
 - c. unsure
 - d. interested
2. Which sentence shows how the author feels about Venus?
 - a. Venus is a fascinating planet.
 - b. Venus has lots of volcanoes on it.
 - c. The first spacecraft went to Venus in 1962.
 - d. Venus is the brightest planet.
3. Which question cannot be answered after reading this passage?
 - a. How big is Venus compared to other planets?
 - b. Is Venus similar to Earth?
 - c. What is the temperature on Venus?
 - d. How did Venus get its name?
4. What is the meaning of word *noticed* in this passage?
 - a. wondered about
 - b. been aware of
 - c. recognized
 - d. understood