

Reading Task: Gapped Text (Gapped Sentences/Clauses)

Instructions: Read the article about searching for space environments. For questions 1–6, complete gaps (1–6) in the article with a sentence or clause (A–G). There is one extra phrase/sentence that you do NOT need.

Looking for a new Earth

For thousands of years, humans explored the Earth. Now astronomers are exploring space, looking for new planets or a 'new Earth' for humans to live on in the future. But what will a new Earth look like?

First of all, astronomers look for a star. That's because our own Earth orbits a star (the Sun). When astronomers have found a star, they look for planets around it. (1) _____. Once they find a new planet, it's also important to measure the distance between the planet and the sun. (2) _____.

When they find a planet in a good position, astronomers look for three things: water, air and rock. (3) _____. If you can grow plants, then the plants can produce air for humans to breathe. Finally, astronomers also look for rocks, because water is often under the rocks.

(4) _____. For example, Gliese 581g is a planet at a safe distance from the nearest star. Astronomers also think it has water and rock. (5) _____, but not colder than Antarctica or the Arctic Circle.

However, there are some differences. Gliese 581g is bigger than the Earth and a year on Gliese 581g is only 37 Earth days instead of 365. (6) _____. Gliese 581g is 18 trillion kilometres from the Earth.

Options (A–G)

- A. Water is important because if humans go there, they will need water to drink and to grow plants
- B. And the biggest problem is the distance
- C. In recent years, astronomers have found thousands of new planets orbiting suns
- D. In recent years, astronomers have found a few planets that are very similar to Earth
- E. That's because most planets (unlike our Earth) are either too near to the star or too far away
- F. The average temperature is between -31°C and -12°C which is cold
- G. Space travel to other planets will become cheap very soon (*Extra Option*)