

The Inner Planets

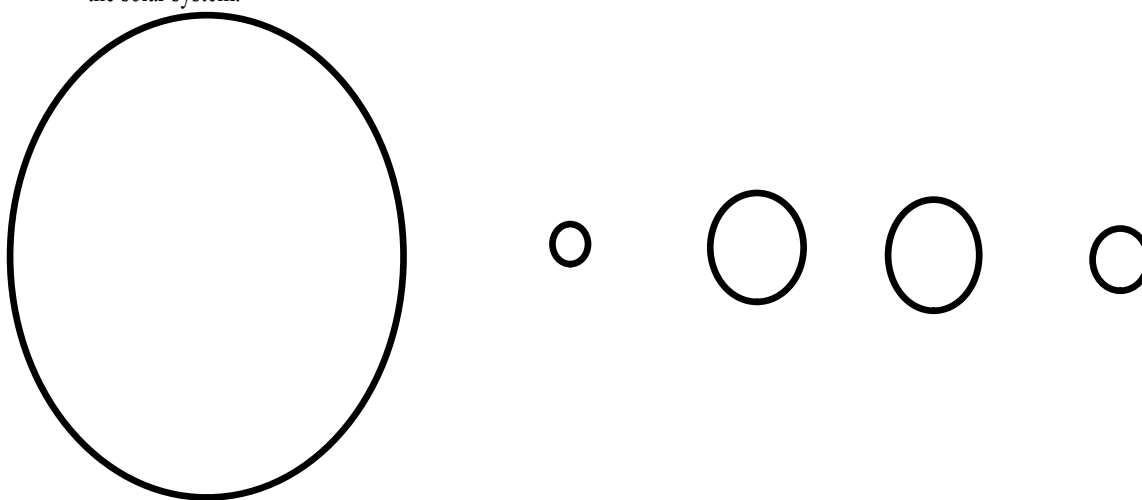
Which planets are often called the terrestrial planets?

What are three similarities among the inner planets?

Rank the inner planets according to diameter. Rank the planet with the greatest diameter as 1.

Which planet rotates on its axis in about the same amount of time that Earth does?

The drawing below shows the sun and the four inner planets. Label the inner planets according to their place in the solar system.



The Earth

7. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about Earth.

- a. About 70 percent of its surface is covered with water.
- b. Its atmosphere extends about 1 kilometer above its surface.
- c. Most of the atmosphere is composed of oxygen gas.
- d. No other planet in the solar system has oceans like Earth's.

8. What is the earth's Dense inner core made of?

Mercury

9. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about Mercury.

- a. Mercury's surface has many craters.
- b. Mercury has no moon's.
- c. The interior of Mercury is composed mostly of the element mercury.
- d. Mercury is the planet closest to the sun.

10. Why does Mercury have a greater range of temperatures than any other planet?

Venus

11. Because Venus is often a bright object in the west after sunset, it is sometimes called the _____.
12. Why is Venus sometimes called "earth's twin"?
13. Circle the letter of each gas that makes up the atmosphere of the planet Venus.
 - a. oxygen
 - b. nitrogen
 - c. sulfuric acid
 - d. carbon dioxide
14. How is the rotation of Venus different from that of most other planets and moons?
15. Is the following sentence true or false? The atmosphere of Venus is so thick that there is never a sunny day on its surface?
16. The trapping of heat by the atmosphere of Venus is called the _____.

17. Why is Mars called the red planet?

18. The atmosphere on Mars is composed mostly of _____.

19. Is the following sentence true or false. There are no canals on Mars.

20. Why do some regions on Mars look darker than others?

21. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about Mars.

- a. The rocks on Mars are covered with a rusty dust.
- b. Mars has seasons because it is tilted on its axis.
- c. Mars has many large oceans on its surface.
- d. Mars has giant volcanoes on its surface.

22. What are the two moons of Mars?

23. Complete the table below

Characteristics of Earth and Mars		
Characteristics	Earth	Mars
Atmosphere		
Moons		
Seasons		
Surface		
Water		