

FILL IN THE GAP



Read the sentences and choose the correct word or words to fill the gap.

Our Solar system contains \_\_\_\_\_ planets.

Not all have been \_\_\_\_\_ fully, but scientists and experts have managed to piece together a range of facts to help us understand them.

Mercury is the smallest planet in the Solar system, only a little bigger than Earth's \_\_\_\_\_.

It is the \_\_\_\_\_ to the Sun, but not the hottest – and it's still a staggering 57 million kilometres away.

Venus has extreme temperatures and \_\_\_\_\_ clouds, which make the existence of life there unlikely.

Unusually, Venus's rotation is in the \_\_\_\_\_ direction to Earth's.

A day on Mars lasts just over 24 hours, and it takes the planet 687 Earth days to \_\_\_\_\_ the Sun.

It is known as the 'red planet' due to the rusty fragments of \_\_\_\_\_ in its soil.

A day lasts about \_\_\_\_\_ Earth hours, but a year takes about 12 Earth years.

Jupiter is made mostly of hydrogen and helium: it does not have a solid surface, so \_\_\_\_\_ would be unable to land.

Saturn is believed to have a total of \_\_\_\_\_ moons.

It takes about 84 Earth years to complete a full orbit of \_\_\_\_\_, and about 17 hours to rotate once.

Almost 30 times as far away from the Sun as Earth is, \_\_\_\_\_ is the most distant planet in the Solar system.

It takes about 16 Earth hours to rotate once, but around 165 Earth years to orbit the Sun, meaning it has so far completed only one rotation since its \_\_\_\_\_.

Due to its icy \_\_\_\_\_, it would not be able to support life as we know it.

MATCHING



Draw a line with a ruler to match the information.

Mercury	iron
Earth	hydrogen and helium
Mars	closest to the Sun
Saturn	fifth largest planet

Venus	four times wider than Earth
Jupiter	hottest planet
Uranus	not visible to the naked eye
Neptune	largest planet in the solar system

discovered in 1846	Jupiter
red planet	Mars
79 moons in total	Saturn
62 moons in total	Neptune

destroy any vehicle	Neptune
165 years to orbit the Sun	Venus
smallest planet	Jupiter
rotation is opposite direction to Earth	Mercury

Earth	eight planets
solar system	rings of ice and rock
Mercury	88 Earth days to orbit the Sun
Saturn	365 days to orbit the Sun