

Questions:

Based on the information in your table answer the following:

1. Do you notice any similarities between the first four planets of the solar system?
What are these? (think size and what they are made of)

2. Do you notice any similarities between the last four planets of the solar system?
What are these? (think size and what they are made of)

3. Now look at the differences in the planets' solar orbits.
What do you notice, how are they different?

4. Which planet is the hottest?

5. Which planet is the coldest?

6. Which planet has the longest day? (a day is represented by its rotation period, the time it takes the planet to do one spin/rotation about its axis)

7. Which planet has the shortest day?

8. Which planet has the most moons?

9. If humans were to settle on another planet in our solar system, in your opinion which planet would we be most likely to colonise? What factors did you consider to make this decision?

Planets Grid Activity:

You are an astronomer on a mission to collect some important information about the solar system!

Complete the planets grid by following these steps:

1. Go to - www.solarsystemscope.com

2. Allow the software to LOAD!

3. Double-click on a planet of choice (EARTH) - then click EXPLORE:

4. On the left hand side of the screen, click PLANET SYSTEM and turn on SHOW INFO. On the right hand side you can see the number of main moons (if there aren't any showing the planet has no moons).

- Zoom right out so you can see the orbits of the moon/s.

The planet could still have more moons. You can find this out by reading through the information in the SHOW INFO box (navigate with arrows).

- Use this information to fill out your table.

5. On the left hand side - click ORBIT, turn on SHOW INFO (below it).

6. Now use the arrows in the text box to navigate through and find the information you need. To get the diameter click on 'absolute'.

7. Go to STRUCTURE and see if you can find out what the planet is made of. Don't worry if it doesn't have facts about the atmosphere, just fill out the information you can find. Surface, what the planet is made of in general etc.

8. Find an interesting fact about the planet.

9. Move on to the next one by clicking GO BACK.
(Toggle your mouse to change the angle of your view of the solar system)

Once again, you will find all the information you need under the 'PLANET SYSTEM', 'ORBIT' and 'STRUCTURE' tabs.

Be sure to have the SHOW INFO on!

Happy Exploring!

