



Fill in  
the  
Missing  
Words -

Answers  
for  
Teachers

### Objectives of Activity

1. Develop research skills
2. Read and recall facts
3. Learn interesting facts about the planets and our solar system

### How to:

Ask children to find the missing words - answers in Planetary Explanatory  
<https://goodnightstarry.com/pages/planetary-explanatory-2>

# Lesson 1: The Sun, Moon and Mercury

## How long would it take you to travel to the Sun?

If you flew to the Sun as fast as a jet airplane normally travels, it would take you 19 years to get there.

## Why is it called the Sun?

English is part of a family of languages that came from Germany. And an old German word Sonne was first used to describe that big, orangey thing in the sky. In Old English, this gradually changed to Sunne before it was shortened to 'Sun' in modern English.

## Where did the Moon come from?

It is thought that the Moon was created from the remains of a planet (about the size of Mars) that collided with the Earth around 4.5 billion years ago.

## Why is the Moon holding a rabbit?

Many Asian and indigenous American people see the shape of a rabbit in the dark and light markings on the Moon, which they call the 'Moon Rabbit'

## Who is Mercury named after?

Mercury was named after the Roman God of Messengers

## Has anyone ever been to Mercury?

No human is likely to set foot on Mercury, as it's just too unpleasant.

So instead, we have sent over 40 unmanned spacecraft (or robotic probes) to Mercury over the years.

## Lesson 2: Venus, Mars and Little Asteroids

### Who is Venus named after?

Venus was named after the Roman Goddess of Love and Beauty

### Why is the planetary symbol for Venus used to represent women here on Earth?

Venus has long been associated with women. It is sometimes called Earth's sister planet as it has a similar structure and size to our home.

### Why does Mars have a red brush on his head and look so angry?

The ancient Romans named this planet after their mighty God of War, Mars, because of the way it twinkles blood-red in the night sky.

### Are there really volcanoes on Mars?

Mars is home to the biggest Volcano found so far in the Solar system, called 'Olympus Mons'. At around 22km ( 14 miles) high, it is roughly 3 times higher than the highest mountain on Earth, Mount Everest.

### What are Asteroids?

Asteroids are little bits of rocks, stone and ice that orbit around the Sun in a region known as the Asteroid Belt.

### What's the difference between an Asteroid and a meteorite?

When asteroids collide, little pieces can break off and fly away. If they fly off in a direction that takes them outside the orbit of the Asteroid Belt, they are then called a meteorite

## Lesson 3: Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus

### Why is it called Jupiter?

The Romans had many gods, but the most important of these was Jupiter, who was the king of all of the Gods.

So, they called the largest planet they could see in the night sky after their greatest God of all, mighty Jupiter.

### Why does Jupiter have a windy bottom?

A mighty storm, known as the Great Red Spot has been raging for hundreds of years in Jupiter's southern hemisphere.

### What are Saturn's rings made of?

Saturn's beautiful rings are made up of millions and millions of tiny particles of dust, rocks and ice.

### How many moons does Saturn have?

Saturn has 53 official moons and maybe up to another 9 more

### Why does Uranus spin backwards?

We're not sure why, but Uranus spins in the opposite direction to the Earth and almost all of the other planets (except Venus).

### Why is it called Uranus?

All of the other Planets (besides Earth) are named after Roman Gods.

Uranus is different and is named after the Greek God of the Sky.

## Lesson 4: Neptune, Pluto and The Galaxies

### Does Neptune really have rings?

Yes, Neptune is surrounded by a set of 5 known rings. They were first discovered by the probe Voyager 2, who flew past Neptune in 1989.

### Why is it called Neptune?

Only discovered in 1846, Neptune was named after the Roman God of the Sea.

### Is it true that Pluto is not a planet anymore?

From its discovery in 1930 until 2006, Pluto was classed as the ninth and last planet in our solar system. However, when Scientists began finding other objects in our solar system that were similar in size to (or even bigger than) Pluto, they had to decide what it is they mean when they say 'Planet'. Under the new definition, Pluto is now considered to be a small, Dwarf planet.

### Why is it called Pluto?

Pluto was named after the Roman God of the Underworld who was thought to live at the very end of the world and past the furthest boundaries of the ocean.

The name Pluto was suggested by an 11-year-old Schoolgirl from England Venetia Burney, after more than 1,000 names had been proposed to the observatory that discovered it.

### And what's a galaxy?

A galaxy is a large group of stars (like our Sun), gas and dust (like the planets in our solar system and in the billions of other solar systems in our galaxy) that are all bound together by the mighty force of gravity.

### What galaxy are we in again?

We're part of the 'Milky Way' galaxy but there are at least 100 billion other galaxies (and different types of galaxies) out there in the Universe.

# Lesson 5: Earth, Heart Nebula, Astronaut & Our Solar System

## Why is our planet called Earth?

Unlike every other planet in the solar system, the Earth was not named after a Greek or Roman God. Rather, the word 'Earth' comes from an eighth-century Anglo-Saxon (or English-German) word 'Erda', which just meant 'the ground' or 'soil'.

## What is that on the top of the Earth?

At the very top and very bottom of the Earth, and at different times of the year, you can often see a magical light show up high in the night sky.

Near the North Pole, these are called the 'northern lights' (or the Aurora Borealis). While near the South Pole, they are called the 'Southern lights' (or Aurora Australis).

## What is an Astronaut?

An Astronaut is anyone who has trained to go into space aboard a Spacecraft either as a pilot or crew member.

## How do I become an Astronaut?

You have to work very hard at school and be very physically fit. Engineering, Science (e.g. physics, biology, astronomy, chemistry) and mathematics are all very important subjects if you want to be an Astronaut.

## What is a Nebula?

A Nebula is a cloud of dust, hydrogen, helium and other gases that live in the regions in between Star or solar systems (called the interstellar medium).

## Is there only one solar system?

No, there are many, many more solar systems out there. Almost every one of the tens of millions of stars you see in the sky at night-time is a star like our Sun.

And most of these \_\_\_\_\_ also have planets and other objects in orbit around them, which also makes them solar systems.

Stars