



Planets

Fact Cards



What Is a Day?

1

A day is the time that it takes for a planet to complete one rotation on its axis. In one full day, we see the Sun rise, set and rise again.

2

On Earth, one day lasts 24 hours. On other planets, one day can last for a much shorter or longer time than this.



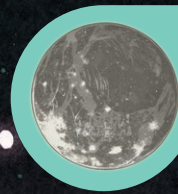
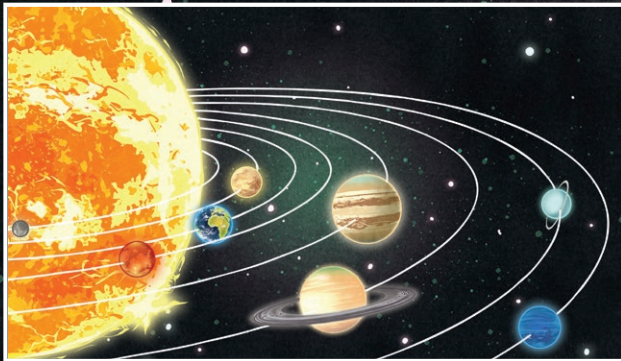


What Is a Year?

1 A year is the time that it takes for a planet to make one complete orbit around the Sun. On Earth, one year lasts 365.25 days – but other planets may take a much shorter or longer time than this to complete one solar orbit.

2 On our calendars, we measure one Earth year as 365 days.

? Why do you think we need to include a Leap Day every four years?



Facts About Mercury

1 Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun.

2 Mercury has no moons.

3 One day on Mercury takes as long as 56 days on Earth!

4 One year on Mercury is much shorter than an Earth year – it only lasts 88 Earth days.

5 The temperature on Mercury can reach over 400°C. This is hot enough to melt lead!



Facts About Venus

1 Venus is the second planet from the Sun.

2 Venus has no moons.

3 Venus spins in the opposite direction to Earth.

4 One day on Venus lasts 243 Earth days, but a Venus year only lasts 225 Earth days.

5 Daytime temperatures on Venus can reach 460°C.



Facts About Earth

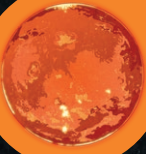
1 Earth is the third planet from the Sun.

2 The Earth has one moon.

3 The Earth is the only known planet in the solar system that can support life.

4 About 71% of the Earth's surface is covered by water.

5 Daytime temperatures on Earth average 15°C.



Facts About Mars

- 1 Mars is the fourth planet from the sun.
- 2 Mars is known as the 'Red Planet' because of its distinctive red colour.
- 3 Mars has two moons. The moons are called Phobos and Deimos.
- 4 One year on Mars is longer than an Earth year. It lasts 687 Earth days.
- 5 Like Earth, Mars has ice caps at its north and south poles.
- 6 The average temperature on Mars is -63°C .



Facts About Jupiter

- 1 Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system. It is the fifth planet from the Sun.
- 2 Jupiter has 79 moons. The most well known of these are called Io, Europa and Callisto.
- 3 One year on Jupiter lasts 11.9 Earth years.
- 4 However, one day on Jupiter only lasts 10 hours.
- 5 The 'Great Red Spot' on Jupiter is actually a storm that is twice the size of Earth and has been raging for over three centuries.



Facts About Saturn

- 1 Saturn is the second largest planet in our solar system. It is the sixth planet from the Sun.
- 2 Saturn is a gas giant – a giant planet that is mainly made up of gases such as hydrogen and helium. The other gas giant in our solar system is Jupiter.
- 3 Saturn has 82 known moons.
- 4 One day on Saturn lasts ten hours.
- 5 Saturn takes 29 Earth years to orbit the Sun.
- 6 Saturn is orbited by rings made up of small pieces of ice and rock.



Facts About Uranus

- 1 Uranus is the seventh planet from the sun and the third largest planet in the solar system.
- 2 Uranus is an ice giant – a type of gas giant planet with a mantle of frozen or slushy liquid and an icy core.
- 3 It has the coldest atmosphere of all the planets in the solar system.
- 4 One year on Uranus lasts 84 Earth years. However, one day on Uranus only lasts 17 hours.
- 5 Uranus is the only planet in the solar system that spins on its side.

Facts About Neptune

1 Neptune is the eighth and most distant planet from the Sun.

2 Neptune is an ice giant. Its atmosphere is mainly made up of hydrogen, helium and methane.

3 Neptune has 14 known moons.

4 A day on Neptune only lasts 16 hours. Neptune takes 165 Earth years to orbit the Sun.

5 Neptune has five main rings that orbit the planet. They are thinner than the rings of Saturn and they are hard to see from Earth.