

How big is the Solar System - Questions

Directions: Answer the following questions on a sheet of notebook paper. Remember to put part of the question into your answer.

1. Why are the planets not in a straight line extending (going out) from the Sun?
2. List the order of the **planets**...beginning with the planet closest to the Sun.
3. Why does Mercury have such extreme temperatures (Hint: NOT because how close it is to the Sun)?
4. What is the temperature difference from Mercury's hottest temperature (during the day) to night?
5. Even though Venus is known as both the morning star and evening star...how do scientist know that Venus is a planet and not a star?
6. What makes Venus the hottest planet in the solar system even though it is not the closest planet to the Sun?
7. What is "retrograde rotation"?
8. Which planet should be called "Water"?
9. Explain why this planet (that you chose for 8) would be called "Water"?
10. What planet is nicknamed the "Red Planet"?
11. Explain why this planet is called the "Red Planet"?
12. What is Olympus Mons?
13. What is the Great Red Spot?
14. How long has this spot been noticed?
15. Which planet could float in water?
16. The rings of Saturn made of what?
17. How many years has Uranus been a planet?
18. What might have caused Uranus to spin on its side?
19. How was Neptune discovered if you are unable to see the planet?
20. Write a couple sentences to explain how the solar system was formed.
21. List the planets that are made of land (Terrestrial)?
22. List the planets that are gas giants (Jovian)?
23. If Pluto were a planet, would it be a terrestrial or Jovian?
24. Why do you think Pluto would be terrestrial or Jovian?

