

# Prep Sheet for Part Three: The Solar System

Vocabulary: all planet and dwarf planet names, Kuiper, asteroid, atmosphere, revolution...

1. Spelling and capitalization count: Name ALL the planets and dwarf planets in order from CLOSEST to FARTHEST from the sun.

**Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Ceres, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto, Haumea, Makemake, Eris**

2. Explain the general pattern in the distances between the planets of our Solar System.

**Each inner planet is generally closer together than outer planets and the same distance apart from each other. The outer planets get progressively farther apart.**

3. Compare and contrast a dwarf planet and a regular planet.  
**Compare: both spherical, both orbit the sun**

**Contrast:**

**Planet - bigger, less crowded area, flat orbit, more gravitational pull**

**Dwarf Planet – smaller, more crowded area, tilted orbit, less gravitational pull**

4. Name the two most crowded areas of our solar system.  
Spelling counts.

**Kuiper Belt and Asteroid Belt**

5. Name four differences between the inner and outer planets.  
**Inner – smaller, rocky, shorter revolution, longer rotation, fewer moons, closer together**

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**Outer – larger, gaseous, longer year, shorter day, more moons, farther apart**

6. List the planets that are similar in size. (there are three pairs)

**Earth and Venus**

**Mars and Mercury**

**Uranus and Neptune**

7. Why are dwarf planets found in the asteroid belt and Kuiper Belt?

**They do not have enough gravitational pull to clear their area of other objects.**

8. List the five dwarf planets and where each are located in the solar system.

**Ceres – Asteroid Belt**

**Pluto, Makemake, Haumea, and Eris – Kuiper Belt**

9. True or False: All planets are solid, rocky objects.

**FALSE**

10. True or False: All planets have at least one moon.

**FALSE**

11. What is an asteroid and where are most of them found?

**Big, irregularly shaped space rock found in the Asteroid Belt.**

12. What's the difference between a meteor and a meteorite?

**Meteor – in Earth's atmosphere**

**Meteorite – if it lands on the surface**

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13. What is a comet and what does it orbit? What is different about their orbits?

**Rock and ice, has a tail, orbits around the sun. Their orbits are “off-center”.**

14. Where is the Kuiper Belt located? What is located here?

**Outside the orbit of Neptune. All KBO’s (Kuiper Belt Objects) are located here:  
comets, ice, rock, dust, dwarf planets, asteroids,  
meteoroids...**

15. What does the word “composition” mean when talking about solar system objects?

**What something is made out of.**

**→ Be sure your agenda is up to date!**

Possible Extra Credit Questions:

\*Why do things weigh less on the moon than on Earth?

\*What is an Astronomical Unit? Why are they used to measure Solar System distances?