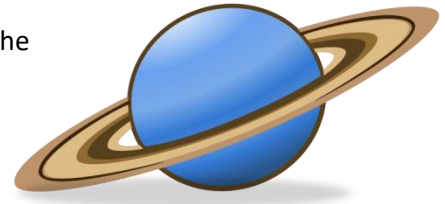


Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Characteristics of the Planets

Complete each of the following activities to learn characteristics of the planets and 2 of the moons in our solar system.



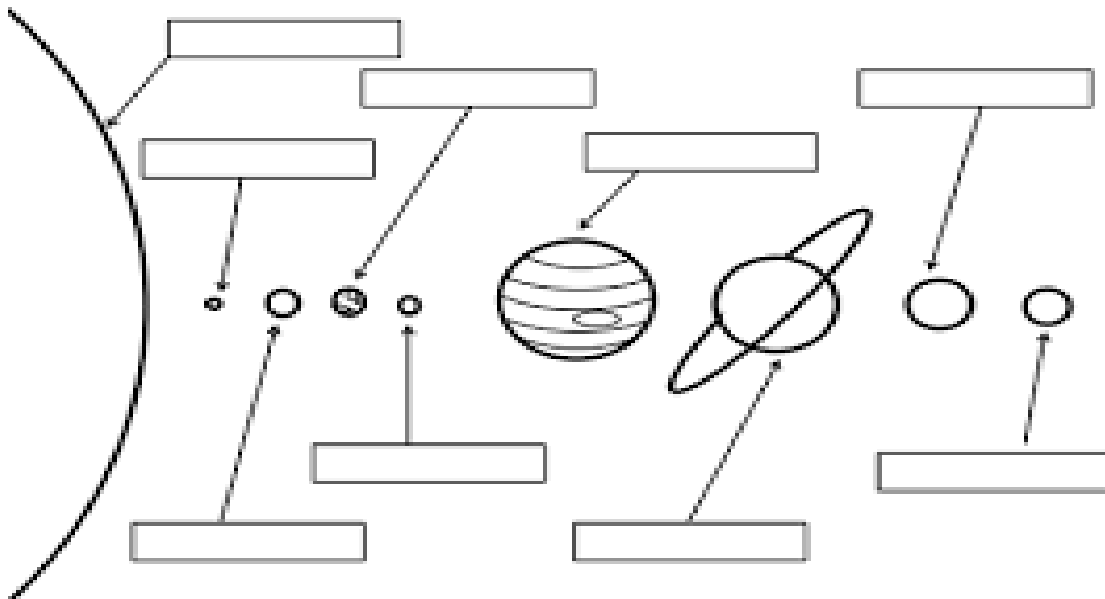
Activity 1 – Name That Tune

Our solar system has inspired many people, not just scientists. Between the years 1914 – 1916, a musician, Gustav Holst wrote a 7 piece composition (He didn't do one for Earth), each piece representing one of our planets. Listen to the pieces of music to see if you can determine which song belongs to each planet.

Song	My Prediction (Guess)	Actual Answer
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

Activity 2 – Planets in Order

Complete the diagram below showing the order of the major planets in our solar system.



Activity 3 – Compare and Contrast

Use the information cards to fill out the data table. Then use the data table to look for patterns (hey look, a ccc) to help organize the 8 planets (and 2 larger moons) in our solar system

Planets	Compare and Contrast Characteristics of the Planets				
	Atmosphere	Biosphere	Hydrosphere	Geosphere	Solar Energy
Mercury					
Venus					
Earth					
Mars					
Jupiter					
Saturn					
Uranus					
Neptune					
Europa					
Titan					

Analysis Questions

1. What is the most common gas found in the atmospheres of the planets/moons?
2. Which planets/moons have an atmosphere similar to Earth?
3. What do you notice about the planets/moons have active or once active volcanoes?
4. What do you notice about the planets/moons that have liquid water?
5. Which planets/moons is the most likely place to find extraterrestrial life? Explain the answer. *hint...use the data table to help provide support.