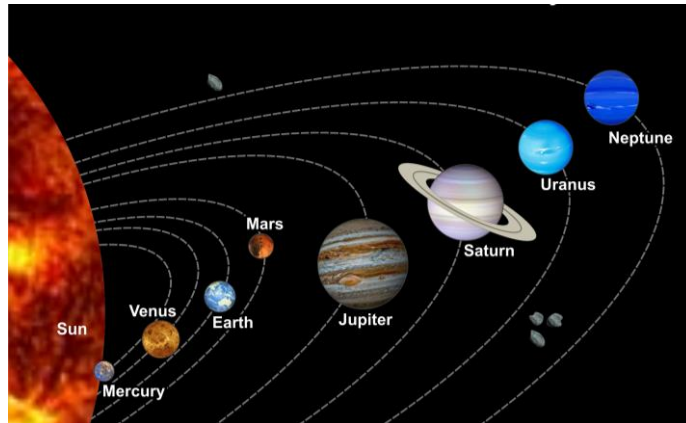


Name _____

Names of the Planets - Student Worksheet



Early astronomers had to rely on their eyesight to recognise and describe planets. By medieval times they had already seen and named Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. Good telescopes and mathematics helped later astronomers to find Uranus (1781) and Neptune (1846) and to also find rings, moons, dwarf planets, asteroids and comets. Mathematicians had already predicted where to find Neptune and the dwarf planet Pluto (1930) long before they were seen through a telescope.

A mnemonic is a short phrase that reminds you of something important. Work out a short phrase in which each word starts with the same letter as a planet, in order by distance from the Sun.

Mercury Venus Earth Mars Jupiter Saturn Uranus Neptune.

M _____ V _____ E _____ M _____

J _____ S _____ U _____ N _____