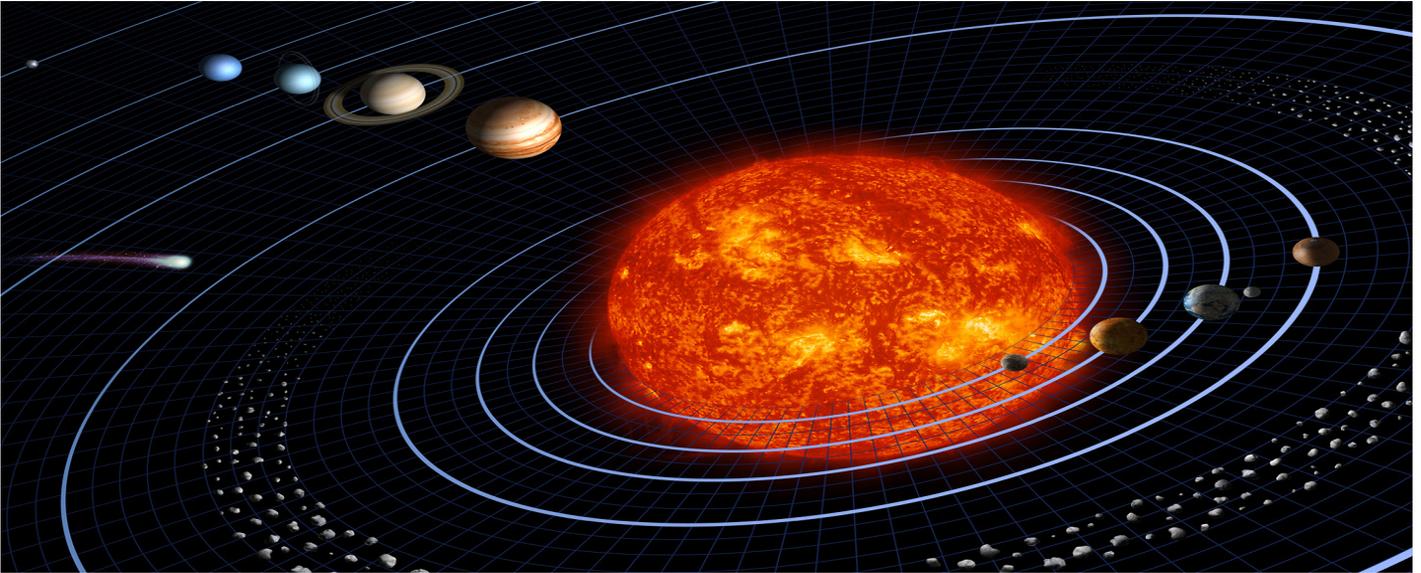


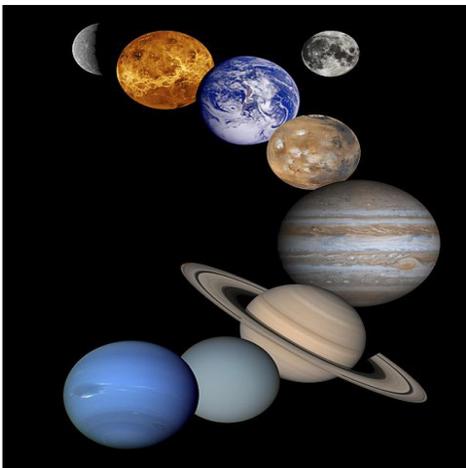


Intergalactic Adventure



In a world with few remaining unexplored areas, we can always look to space for a dose of mystery and wonder. For this scavenger hunt you will be leaving the comfort of your home planet and moving into the great beyond. Travel from planet to planet and learn a thing or two about our solar system before reaching your final destination.

Activity



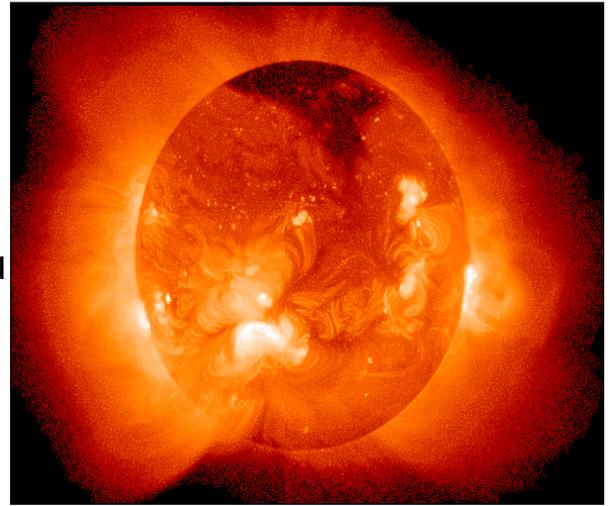
To complete this quest you must travel from planet to planet in order to solve a puzzle. At each planet you will be asked a question, and the answer to each question will feature a highlighted letter. Compile these highlighted (yellow) letters at the end to reveal your final destination! But first, you must acquaint yourself with the solar system you'll be exploring by following this link...

<http://bit.ly/1khB5EC>



1. Before coming across any of the planetary bodies, you first pass a giant, gaseous ball of fire in the center of the planets. Can you guess what this giant ball of gas is? The sun of course!

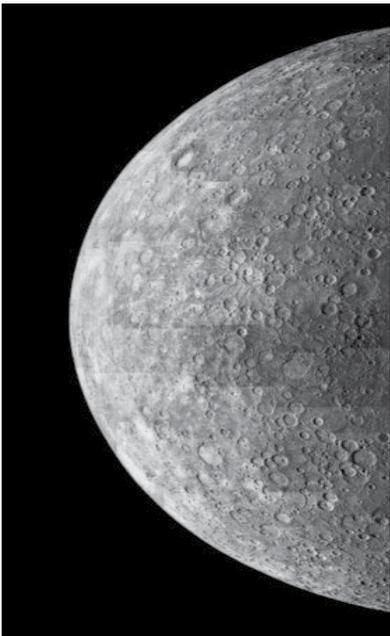
The sun makes up approximately 99.8% of the mass of our universe. While nearing this star, you notice that in addition to emitting heat and light, it is also emitting charged particles throughout the solar system. Do you know what this stream of charged particles is called?



(Hint: <http://bit.ly/1crpYSR>)

- a) Solar Wind
- b) Photosphere
- c) Nuclear fusion

Answer:



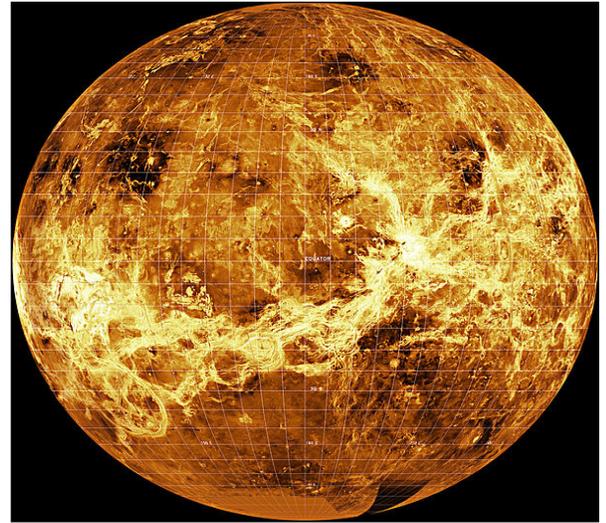
2. Whew that was hot! While the sun is crucial to sustaining life on planet Earth, you would never want to land on it. So next we will move approximately 36,000,000 miles away to the first planetary body of the solar system. Named after the messenger Roman God, Mercury is the closest planet to the sun. This looks like a nice place to land, yet on your approach you notice that you can still feel the strong wind from the Sun. You also sense a strong magnetic field, which is due to the composition of the interior of Mercury. What element mainly composes the inner core of Mercury?

(Hint: <http://bit.ly/1csIk3y>)

Answer: _ _ _ _



3. Leaving behind Mercury, you notice a bright red planet named after the Roman goddess of love. Beautiful as the planet might look, the name is deceptive. This is not a good place to land, as Venus's clouds become too heavy to travel through. It is very hard to love a planet containing clouds made of sulfuric acid! Venus is definitely the hottest planet in the solar system. Venus's atmosphere absorbs the sun's heat but does not allow for it to escape. What is the name of this type of system?



(Hint: <http://bit.ly/1d6zBct>)

- a) Greenhouse Effect
- b) Aurora Borealis
- c) Retrograde Effect

Answer:



4. You escape the crazy cloud swirls of Venus to find yourself looking at a beautiful blue planet with hues of white, green, and brown. Which planet could this be? Earth, of course! Earth is the largest "terrestrial" body closest to the sun, and it is the only planet whose temperature allows for water to exist in liquid form. One of its unique characteristics is the seven continents that sit on Earth's tectonic plates. Did you know that long ago these seven continents were one giant landmass? What was the name of this supercontinent?

(Hint: <http://bit.ly/1khBkQj>)

Answer:

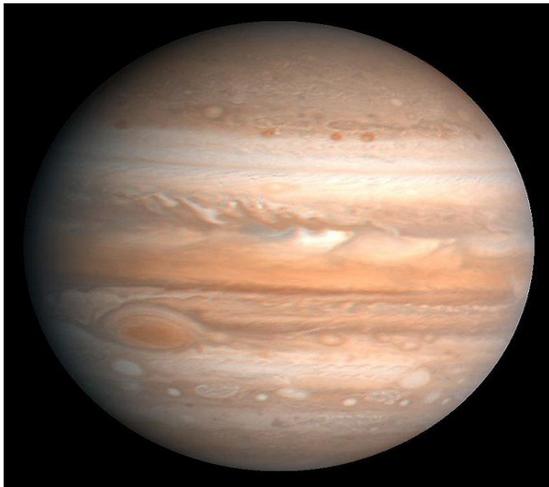


5. As tempting as it is to land on Earth, you know you must move on to the next bright red planet. Named after the Roman god of war, Mars, is the fourth planet from the sun! Earth scientists for many years have speculated the possibility of life on Mars. Many different rovers have been sent to Mars to explore its surface, and one has even collected Martian soil. This soil sample revealed something us earthlings have been waiting for... traces of water! What is the name of this rover that made this discovery?



(Hint: <http://bit.ly/Ko1ocl>)

Answer: _ _ _ _ _



6. Leaving behind another possible planet for inhabitation, you come across the largest planet in the solar system. You realize that this gaseous planet has weather systems that are out of control! Yikes! Compared to Earth's storms, which last only a few days or weeks, Jupiter's weather systems can last decades! Good luck getting out of the house, or even building a house! As of current, Jupiter has 67 moons! Three of its four largest moons are Io, Ganymede, and Callisto. Can you name the fourth one?

(Hint: <http://bit.ly/1gybzWU>)

Answer: _ _ _ _ _

7. Leaving Jupiter, you notice the second largest planet in our solar system. Much like Jupiter, Saturn is composed of hydrogen and helium. Not only is it known for being the second largest planet in our solar system, but it is also known for spinning the fastest! In fact, it spins so rapidly that the planet is much thicker at the equator. You don't have to look a second time to notice Saturn's very unique characteristic of this planet. What is this characteristic?

(Hint: <http://bit.ly/1du2VYO>)

Answer: _ _ _ _



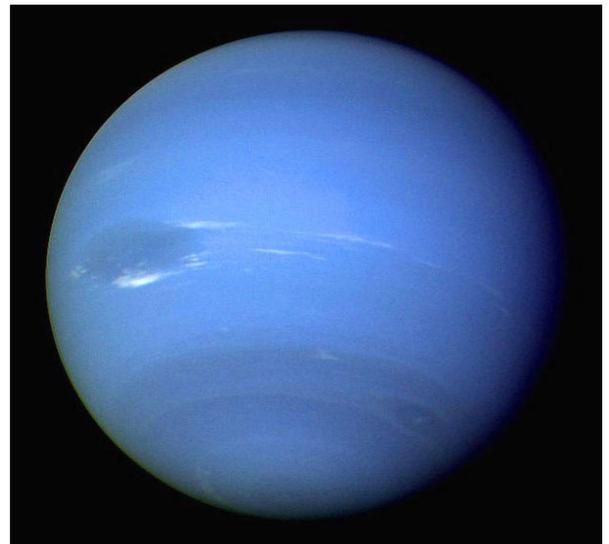


8. So many planets, but only two more planets to go! Leaving Saturn, you notice a blue green, dull looking planet. But more interestingly, you notice that this planet seems tilted. This tilt gives Uranus 42 years of sunlight, followed by 42 years of darkness. Yep, YEARS. The tilt also creates unusual weather patterns with winds and clouds that have caused trouble for scientists studying this planet. Among Uranus' 27 moons, four of the moons are named after literary works. Can you name the moon that was named after a character in Alexander Pope's work? It is also the name of a Disney princess...

(Hint: <http://bit.ly/JONSgN>)

Answer: _ _ _ _ _

9. Last but not least, you notice a planet as blue as the sea. It will come as no surprise that this beautiful blue planet was named after the Roman god of the sea. The discovery of Neptune could not have been possible without the discovery of Uranus and its tilt. Scientists had a hard time explaining Uranus's tilt and predicted that it's gravity was being pulled by an unseen planet. Thus, the discovery of Neptune! Neptune's atmosphere does not allow us to see most of Neptune's features, and its blue color is the result of a gas in its upper-most atmosphere. Can you guess which gas causes this planet to take on a beautiful blue hue?



(Hint: <http://bit.ly/1l8rcao>)

Answer: _ _ _ _ _



Final Destination

Congratulations! Now that you have covered all of the planets in the Milky Way Galaxy, decipher the code to determine which planet will be your final destination. Each of the blanks have a number below them. Fill them in with the highlighted letter from the answer to the numbered questions to reveal where you're headed to now!

____ _
4 8 3 2 6 5 6 1 7 5 9

But wait, on your way to your final destination you notice something far away that resembles a planet. Go to the interactive blog to find out more!

<http://stem-worksblog.com/scavenger-hunts/intergalactic-adventure/>