SOLAR SYSTEM
PRINTABLE PACK

THE HOMESCHOOL COMPASS
MERQUY
VENUS
EARTH
MARS
PLANET FACT CARDS
**Mercury**

Mercury is the smallest planet in our solar system and the closest to the Sun. The temperature fluctuates widely on Mercury. It can get up to 800°F during the day and as cold as -290°F at night. That's because Mercury has no atmosphere.

Mercury is also the fastest planet in the solar system, circling the Sun in about 88 Earth days. That's how Mercury got its name. It is named for the swiftest of the ancient Roman gods.

**Venus**

Though it isn't as close to the Sun as Mercury, Venus is the hottest planet in our solar system. This is because Venus has a very heavy atmosphere that traps Sun's heat.

Venus is one of the brightest objects in the night sky, second to the Moon. Ancients sometimes referred to Venus as the morning star.

Venus is the only planet in the solar system to be named for a female (the ancient Roman goddess of love and beauty).

**Earth**

Earth is the only planet in the Sun's habitable zone. Earth is just the right distance from the Sun that liquid water pools on the planet's surface.

Earth has the greatest density of all the planets in the solar system due to its solid core.

Earth is the only planet in our solar system not named after a mythological god or goddess. The word "Earth" comes from the Old English Ertha meaning land or ground.

**Mars**

Mars is the second smallest planet in the solar system, measuring about half the size of Earth.

Mars is known as the red planet because its rocks and soil are rich in iron oxide.

The tallest mountain in our solar system is found on Mars. A volcano called Olympus Mons, it measures 24 kilometers high, roughly three times the height of Mount Everest.
**JUPITER**

Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system. It is so large that all the other planets in our solar system could fit inside it.

Jupiter is a gas giant composed mostly of hydrogen and helium. It does have rings but they are very difficult to see.

Jupiter has 79 known moons including the largest moon in our solar system called Ganymede.

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**SATURN**

Saturn is probably best known for its thousands of beautiful rings. They are made up of chunks of ice, dust and rock.

The rings contain whole moons called shepherd moons that keep the rings from spreading out too far. The two best-known shepherd moons are Pandora and Prometheus.

Saturn has the fastest winds of any planet in the solar system measured at up to 1,100 mph.

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**URANUS**

Uranus was discovered accidentally when it was spotted in 1781 by amateur astronomer William Herschel. This makes it the first planet discovered in modern history.

Uranus is the only planet to rotate on its side. It also rotates in the opposite direction from most other planets.

Even though it is not the farthest away from the sun, Uranus holds the record for the lowest recorded temperature at -371°F.

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**NEPTUNE**

More than 30 times as far away from the sun as Earth is, Neptune is cold, dark and very windy.

The climate on Neptune is exceptionally active. Large storms sweep across the planet with high-speed solar winds travelling up to 833 mph.

Neptune was discovered after astronomers noticed that the orbit of Uranus fluctuated as if it were being pulled by another large object. After a long search, they discovered the presence of a seventh planet, Neptune.
COUNTING FLASHCARDS
To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.

Deut. 10:14
The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Psalm 19:1
PUZZLE ACTIVITY SHEETS

THE HOMESCHOOL COMPASS
SOLAR SYSTEM CROSSWORD

1. The galaxy we live in is called the ___ (5, 3)
2. This donut-shaped ring of icy objects exists beyond the orbit of Neptune (6, 4)
3. On this planet a day lasts longer than a year (7)
4. This planet is the second brightest object in the night sky, second to the moon (5)
5. When the earth passes between the sun and the moon, it is called a ___ (5, 7)
6. This colorful storm has been racing on Jupiter for hundreds of years (5, 3, 4)
7. Mars has two moons named ___ and Deimos (6)
8. The sun is composed primarily of helium and ___ (8)
9. For centuries humans have identified patterns of stars in the night sky known as ___ (14)
10. ___ was the first person to set foot on the moon back in 1969 (4, 9)
11. Mercury is slightly larger than the earth’s ___ (4)
12. This planet is named after the Roman god of war (4)
13. This chemical gives Uranus its blue color (7)
14. After 76 years as the outermost planet in our solar system, Pluto was reclassified as a ___ (5, 6)
15. Created when big stars explode, its gravitational pull is so strong that nothing can escape from it (5, 4)
16. Unlike the other seven planets, this planet rotates on its side (6)
17. Almost everything we know about Jupiter comes from the unmanned spacecraft called ___ (7)
18. When a meteor hits the earth, it is called a ___ (9)
19. The brightest star in the night sky is ___. Also known as the dog star (6)
20. The ice giants are Uranus and ___ (7)
SOLAR SYSTEM
WORD SEARCH


MOON
STARS
GALAXY
EARTH
ASTRONAUT
GRAVITY
PLANET
TELESCOPE

SOLAR SYSTEM
SATELLITE
MERCURY
SATURN
URANUS
SHUTTLE
ASTEROID
NEPTUNE

MARS
SUN
ORBIT
JUPITER
METEOR
VENUS
COMET
CRATER
WRITING PROMPT ACTIVITY SHEETS

THE HOMESCHOOL COMPASS
IF YOU COULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE IN OUTER SPACE FOR A DAY, WHERE WOULD YOU GO AND WHAT MIGHT YOU EXPERIENCE THERE?
YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF WRITING THE OPERATING MANUAL FOR THE ASTRONAUTS THAT FLY THE SPACE SHUTTLE. WHAT WOULD THE MANUAL INCLUDE? WHAT ARE THE RULES OF SPACE FLIGHT?
IF STARS COULD TALK TO EACH OTHER, WHAT MIGHT THEY SAY?

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WHAT MIGHT IT FEEL LIKE TO WALK ON THE MOON? WRITE ABOUT IT?
ANSWERS