

The Earth and Its Neighbors

Summary

The Sun, the Moon, and the planets in our solar system all offer much to explore. Some planets are farther away from the Sun than others. Planets are different sizes, composed of different materials, and have different characteristics. The Sun has different effects on the planets as well as on the Moon.

Before Reading

Activate Prior Knowledge

Provide background for students by previewing the book. Discuss the text features and preview the key vocabulary and concepts.

Vocabulary

asteroid, axis, comet, elliptical, Moon phase, orbit, revolution, rotation, satellite, solar system, space probe

Comprehension Skill: Make Inferences

Tell students that when they read about different kinds of effects that the Sun has on all the planets, it is obvious how important it is. Ask students to think about how life on Earth would be different without the Sun.

During Reading

Think Critically

Have students answer the *What Did You Learn?* questions located on the inside back cover of their book.

- 1. How does the movement of the Earth in space create cycles we all experience?** Possible response: The way that the Earth spins causes different parts to face the Sun at different times. This is the reason for night and day.

- 2. Why does the Moon seem to change in appearance as it goes through different phases each month?** The lighted side of the Moon doesn't always face the Earth.
- 3. Why is a year on Earth different from a year on Neptune?** Because Neptune is farther away from the Sun.

After Reading

Writing in Science

The Sun's extreme heat and power cause actions to take place in the solar system. Write about the Sun's effects on the solar system. Include details from the book to support your answer.

Organize Information

Graphic Organizer: Make Inferences Have students complete the Make Inferences chart on the BLM for this Leveled Reader to tell why they think the Moon is the only other object in our solar system that has been explored by humans.

Related Resources

Vocabulary Cards	Equipment Kit
Every Student Learns	LabZone
Activity Flipchart	Quick Study
Graphic Organizer Transparencies	
Quick Activity Transparency	
www.pearsonsuccessnet.com	

Write your answers.

1. What keeps the Earth from getting too hot in the Sun's rays?
Earth's rotation cools and warms us. Its atmosphere reflects some rays to cool us and traps others to warm us.
2. What are the polar ice caps on Mars made of?
The polar ice caps on Mars are made of frozen water and frozen carbon dioxide.
3. What is a meteor shower?
A meteor shower is a cloud of matter left by a comet. When the Earth passes through such a cloud, we see many meteors.
4. Other than the Earth, the Moon is the only object in the solar system that has been visited by humans.
Why do you think that is?

Fill in the graphic organizer with your answer.

Possible answer:

Make Inferences

