

Science - Comparing the planets

1 Match the sentence halves.

The Sun is _____ a galaxy.
 The Earth is _____ a satellite.
 The Moon is _____ a star.
 A constellation is _____ a planet.
 The Milky Way is _____ a group of stars.

2 Look at the chart and use the words to complete the sentences.

hotter ~~longer~~ shorter colder bigger smaller

	Mercury	Venus	Earth	Mars
diameter (km)	5,000	12,000	12,700	6,800
number of hours in a day	4,200	2,800	24	25
number of days in a year	88	224	365	687
average temperature	465°C	480°C	15°C	-65°C

- 1 A year on Mars is longer than a year on the Earth.
- 2 A day on Venus is _____ than a day on Mercury.
- 3 The temperature in Mercury is _____ than Venus.
- 4 The temperature on Venus is _____ than the Earth.
- 5 Venus is _____ than the Earth.
- 6 The Earth is _____ than Mars.

Subject: Science

Comparing the planets

Objective: Comparing the planets

Vocabulary: *sun, moon, earth, constellation, galaxy, satellite, star, planet, Milky Way*

Introduction

Whenever the pupils are working with the theme of space they will need to work with big numbers in order to speak about dimensions and distances. Review the big numbers first to make sure that they are able to say and write these numbers in English. Also point out that in English we use a dot for the decimal point and a comma to separate thousands and hundreds.

Warm up

- Brainstorm a list of space words on the board, for example: *sun, star, moon, planet, galaxy*, etc.
- Ask the pupils if they can tell you anything about these elements. For example: *The Sun is a star. The Moon orbits the Earth*. Explain that when we are referring to our Sun and Moon we use capital letters but when we are referring to other suns and moons we use small letters.

Activity 1

- Pupils read and match the sentence halves.
- Correct the activity by asking pupils to read the sentences out loud.

Answer key The Sun is a star; The Earth is a planet; The Moon is a satellite; A constellation is a group of stars; The Milky Way is a galaxy.

Activity 2

- Pupils look at the information in the chart and use it to complete the sentences.
- Correct the activity by asking pupils to read the sentences out loud.

Answer key 1-longer; 2-shorter; 3-colder; 4-hotter; 5-smaller; 6-bigger

Project

- Make a solar system wall frieze. Find information about the relative sizes and distances so that your solar system is correct.
- Divide the class into eleven pairs/groups. Assign one of the planets, the Sun or the Moon to each group. Write about their planet/sun/moon and attach the information to the solar system.