

Name: _____ Date: _____

Planet Saturn Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. When counting the planets Saturn is in what position away from the Sun?
 - a. Third
 - b. Sixth
 - c. Seventh
 - d. None of the above

2. What NASA probes have been sent to explore Saturn?
 - a. Voyager 1 and 2
 - b. Gemini
 - c. Apollo
 - d. Mariner 1 and 2

3. Saturn
 - a. Is the largest planet
 - b. Is the planet closest to the Sun
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above

4. A year on Saturn is nearly 30 years on Earth because
 - a. Saturn rotates fast on its axis
 - b. Saturn rotates slowly on its axis
 - c. Saturn's orbit is a very long distance from the Sun
 - d. None of the above

5. The surface of Saturn is
 - a. Solid
 - b. Gaseous
 - c. Made of iron
 - d. Contains ice and water

6. How many rings does Saturn have?
 - a. 2
 - b. 5
 - c. 7
 - d. 25



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Planet Saturn Short Answer Questions

1. Create a diagram that shows the Earth and Saturn and their orbit around the Sun. Use this diagram to explain to someone else why it is a difficult technical problem to get a spacecraft launched from Earth to reach Saturn.

2. Do some research and write a short report about one of the Voyager space probes.

3. NASA launched the Cassini probe in 1997 to study Saturn. This probe is named for the astronomer Giovanni Domenico Cassini. Do some research about Cassini and explain how he is linked to planet Saturn.

4. Scientists believe that Saturn has a gaseous surface composed of ammonia, methane and water. Do some research and explain what ammonia and methane are.

5. Describe the rings of Saturn.

6. If there is ice and water in Saturn's atmosphere, do you think there is life like exists on Earth on Saturn? Explain why or why not.

7. Would you like to work as a NASA scientist and gather more information about Saturn? Explain your answer.



Planet Saturn Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. b.
2. a.
3. d.
4. c.
5. b.
6. c.

Short Answer

1. Individual response
2. Individual response
3. Individual response
4. Individual response
5. The unique feature of Saturn is its seven major rings that form a concentric circle around its equator. The major rings are as much as 180,000 feet wide each and they are between 660 to 9,800 feet thick. The major rings are made up of thousands of ringlets. Ringlets contain ice particles that range in size from microscopic to ten feet.
6. Life like exists on Earth is not possible on Saturn because it does not have a solid surface.
7. Individual response

