

The Changing Planet Number



These are new words to practice.

Say each word 10 times.

* solar system

* astronomer

* generation

* doubt

* oval

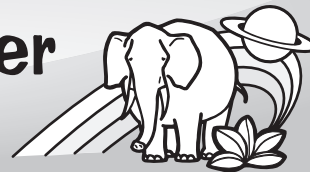
* gravity

* distant

* vote

Before or after reading the story, write one sentence that contains at least one new word.

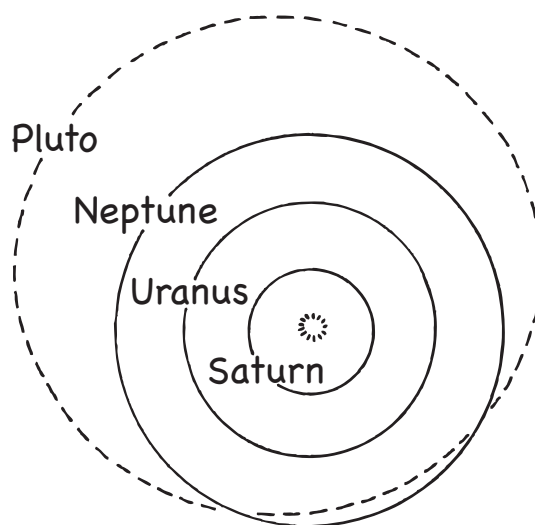
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Ty studied our solar system in school. He learned that the sun is the center of our solar system. He learned that planets orbit the sun. They go around it. There are eight planets. Ty's father, grandfather, and great-grandfather learned about our solar system in school, too. All four generations learned about the solar system. But each generation did not learn the same thing!

Ty and his great-grandfather learned that the solar system has eight planets. Ty's father and grandfather learned that the solar system had nine planets. Are there eight or nine planets? What generations were taught the correct number of planets?

Pluto was discovered on February 18, 1930. Pluto's orbit is shaped like an oval. The oval-shaped orbit means that sometimes Pluto is closer to the sun than at other times. The closeness depends on where Pluto is in its orbit. It takes 248 years for Pluto to complete its orbit around the sun. For most of its orbit, Pluto is farther away from the sun than any other planet. However, for 20 years of its orbit, Pluto is not the most distant. During those years, the planet Neptune is the most distant.

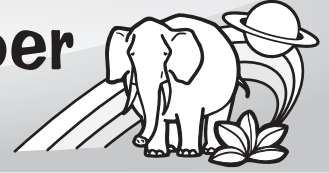


the orbits of the outer planets

Some astronomers began to doubt, or question, if Pluto really was a planet. Astronomers are scientists who study stars and planets. They study space. Why did the astronomers have doubts? Pluto was the smallest planet by far. Earth's moon is bigger than Pluto. Gravity is a force. It is a force of attraction. Pluto's gravitational force is very small when compared to bigger planets.

Pluto was called a planet for 76 years. In August 2006, a vote was taken by astronomers. The outcome of the vote was that Pluto was no longer a planet. Ty learned about the solar system after August 2006. Ty's great-grandfather learned about the planets before Pluto's discovery in 1930. At those times, there were only eight planets. Ty's father and grandfather went to school at different times. They went after Pluto's discovery. They went before astronomers decided it was not a planet.

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After reading the story, answer the questions.
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. This story is mainly about
 - (a) Pluto.
 - (b) a vote.
 - (c) gravity.
 - (d) what Ty learned.

2. Ty's great-grandfather was taught that there were eight planets because
 - (a) he went to school after 1930.
 - (b) Pluto had not yet been discovered.
 - (c) the vote outcome was that Pluto was no longer a planet.
 - (d) Pluto's gravitation force is less than the other planets.

3. Which answer lists three generations?
 - (a) a girl and her two sisters
 - (b) a girl, her sister, and her mother
 - (c) a girl, her mother, and her grandmother
 - (d) a girl, her mother, her grandmother, and her great grandmother

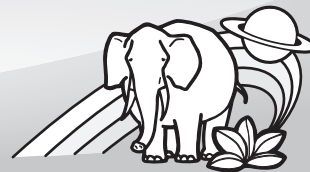
4. From the story, one can tell that what is learned in school
 - (a) will be voted on.
 - (b) is always the same.
 - (c) was not correct long ago.
 - (d) may change as new things are discovered.

5. Think about how the word *doubt* relates to *question*. What two words relate in the same way?

doubt : question

 - (a) discover : find
 - (b) complete : start
 - (d) force : attraction
 - (d) decide : astronomer

Answer Key



A Tarantula and Duct Tape

1. A 4. D
2. C 5. A
3. C

Space Junk

1. A 4. B
2. A 5. C
3. D

Gorilla Lady

1. D 4. B
2. C 5. B
3. C

Why We Get Goose

Bumps

1. C 4. D
2. A 5. B
3. A

Strange Partners

1. A 4. D
2. D 5. B
3. C

A Brilliant Element

1. C 4. A
2. C 5. D
3. B

Digging a Hole to China

1. A 4. C
2. B 5. D
3. A

A Picture to Remember

1. D 4. C
2. B 5. D
3. B

A Whale of a Fish

1. A 4. C
2. D 5. D
3. B

Saving Richard Herrick

1. C 4. D
2. B 5. B
3. C

Dressing for Survival

1. A 4. D
2. A 5. D
3. C

Two to Trigger

1. B 4. D
2. A 5. A
3. B

An Expedition for Bloodsuckers

1. D 4. C
2. B 5. A
3. B

All About Feet

1. A 4. D
2. D 5. B
3. C

Surviving Without a Head

1. D 4. C
2. C 5. B
3. D

The Substance Answer

1. D 4. D
2. B 5. A
3. B

The "She" in the Tongue Twister

1. C 4. D
2. B 5. A
3. C

Two Strange Eruptions

1. D 4. A
2. A 5. C
3. D

A Parasite's Greatest Enemy

1. D 4. B
2. D 5. A
3. A

What Color Was the Bear?

1. B 4. D
2. A 5. C
3. B

A Different Walk

1. B 4. A
2. A 5. C
3. C

A Spy or an Alien?

1. A 4. B
2. B 5. D
3. C

Why Pig Bristles Were Glued to Ants

1. D 4. C
2. C 5. D
3. B

Getting Sick on Purpose

1. B 4. D
2. D 5. C
3. C

Where Days Are

Different Lengths

1. A 4. D
2. A 5. B
3. B

All About Smelling

1. B 4. C
2. A 5. C
3. A

Name that Mammal!

1. D 4. C
2. D 5. B
3. B

The Eiffel Tower, Meteorites, and Our Diet

1. C 4. B
2. A 5. A
3. C

Out-of-Control Twitching

1. C 4. B
2. D 5. D
3. A

Pus — A Sign of Battle

1. C 4. C
2. B 5. D
3. D

An Inventor Who Was Paid Less

1. B 4. A
2. C 5. D
3. C

A Huge Area in a Small Space

1. D 4. B
2. C 5. D
3. B

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1. A 4. D
2. B 5. A
3. C

Why a Termite Eats Its Skin

1. B 4. C
2. D 5. B
3. A

Making Bread Taste Sweet

1. D 4. C
2. B 5. B
3. D

Donya's Guides

1. B 4. A
2. C 5. A
3. D

The Last Pigeon

1. D 4. A
2. B 5. A
3. B

A Doctor Who Listened with Fingertips

1. B 4. D
2. C 5. C
3. B

The Wrong Door

1. C 4. B
2. A 5. A
3. B

The Tall Man Solution

1. D 4. C
2. C 5. A
3. B

The Cent with a Scent

1. D 4. C
2. B 5. A
3. C

Stopping Dizziness

1. A 4. C
2. D 5. D
3. B

The Rabbit Battle

1. A 4. D
2. A 5. D
3. B

Tornado Information

1. A 4. D
2. B 5. B
3. C