What's Up In Space?

Places in Space

Space is an exciting place! Our solar system is in space. It is made up of the sun and the eight planets that travel around the sun. Our solar system also has moons, asteroids, and other space objects.

In the Center

The sun is at the center of our solar system. The sun is a hot, bright star. A star is a ball of hot gas. It gives off heat and light. The sun is the star closest to Earth. That is why it looks different from other stars. Most stars look tiny and can be seen only at night because they are so far away.

Around the Sun

A planet is a large ball made of rock or gas. Eight planets make up our solar system. You live on one of them—Earth! The others are Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Each planet moves in a path around the sun. The path is called an orbit.

Around Earth

Earth has one moon. It travels in an orbit around Earth. The moon is made of rock. It is covered with deep holes called craters. The moon may look as though it gives off light, but it does not. It looks bright when it reflects light from the sun.

Space Facts!

- The sun is so large that it could hold a million Earths.
- Earth is called the Blue Planet because it is covered in so much water.
- Some planets have many moons. Jupiter has the most. It has more than 60 moons.
1. What is at the center of our solar system?

   A  Earth  
   B  stars  
   C  sun  
   D  moon  

2. Which of the following is not listed and described within the passage?

   A  asteroids  
   B  stars  
   C  sun  
   D  moon  

3. Based on the passage, what is one similarity between the sun and planets?

   A  Some planets give off light and heat, like the sun.  
   B  Some planets are made up of gas, like the sun.  
   C  Both planets and the sun move in a path, or orbit.  
   D  Planets and the sun look differently because they are so close to Earth.  

4. The text says the moon “looks bright when it reflects light from the sun.”

   In this sentence, the word reflects most likely means

   A  to burn hot gases  
   B  to throw back light  
   C  to travel around the sun  
   D  to contain a lot of water  

5. What is this passage mostly about?

   A  different kinds of solar systems  
   B  the varying amount of moons orbiting planets  
   C  objects related to the sun  
   D  space objects in our solar system
6. Why does the sun look different from other stars?

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

7. Based on the passage, why does the author say space is an “exciting place”?

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

The moon might look like a planet, _______ it is not one.

A and
B but
C since
D by
9. Read the following sentence.

Most stars look tiny and can be seen only at night because they are so far away.

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

What is the main subject of the sentence? most stars

What do stars look like? ___________________________________________________

Why? _________________________________________________________________

10. Vocabulary Word: object (noun): anything that has a fixed shape or form, that you can touch or see, and that is not alive.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: ______________________________________

______________________________________________________________________
**Teacher Guide & Answers**

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 670

**Featured Text Structure:** Enumerative – the writer includes a list, giving examples of something.

**Passage Summary:** In “What’s Up in Space?,” the author describes the sun, planets, and moons that compose our solar system. Additionally, at the end of the passage, the author provides a list of space facts.

1. What is at the center of our solar system?
   - A  Earth  
   - B  stars  
   - C  **sun**  
   - D  moon

2. Which of the following is not listed and described within the passage?
   - A  asteroids  
   - B  **stars**  
   - C  sun  
   - D  moon

3. Based on the passage, what is one similarity between the sun and planets?
   - A  Some planets give off light and heat, like the sun.  
   - B  **Some planets are made up of gas, like the sun.**  
   - C  Both planets and the sun move in a path, or orbit.  
   - D  Planets and the sun look differently because they are so close to Earth.

4. The text says the moon “looks bright when it reflects light from the sun.”

   In this sentence, the word **reflects** most likely means
   - A  to burn hot gases  
   - B  **to throw back light**  
   - C  to travel around the sun  
   - D  to contain a lot of water

5. What is this passage mostly about?
   - A  different kinds of solar systems  
   - B  the varying amount of moons orbiting planets  
   - C  objects related to the sun  
   - D  **space objects in our solar system**
6. Why does the sun look different from other stars?

**Suggested answer:** The sun looks different from other stars because it is the star closest to Earth.

7. Based on the passage, why does the author say space is an "exciting place"?

**Suggested answer:** The author says space is an exciting place because it is made of many different objects including moons, stars, and planets.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

The moon might look like a planet, _______ it is not one.

- A and
- B but
- C since
- D by

9. Read the following sentence.

Most stars look tiny and can be seen only at night because they are so far away.

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

What is the main subject of the sentence? most stars

What do stars look like? **look tiny and can only be seen at night**

Why? **because they are so far away**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** object (*noun*): anything that has a fixed shape or form, that you can touch or see, and that is not alive.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.