

Astronomy Grade 3 Quiz

Teacher's Answer Key

1. Why isn't Pluto a planet? *Pluto was reclassified as a dwarf planet. Beyond Neptune, the Kuiper Belt holds the chunks of ice and dust, like comets and asteroids as well as larger objects like dwarf planets Eris and Pluto.*
2. How many Earths can fit inside the Sun? *1.3 million*
3. What are comets made out of? *Comets are really dirty snowballs – made from dust and ice.*
4. What is the Earth's atmosphere made up of? *21% oxygen and 78% nitrogen*
5. How many Earths fit inside Jupiter? *1,321*
6. How far is the Earth from the sun? *93 million miles, also known as 1 AU*
7. What is an atmosphere? *An envelope surrounding an object like a planet or a moon that is held in place by the object's gravitational field*
8. What is a magnetic field? *A force field around a magnet.*
9. Are sunsets the same color on all planets? *No, it depends on what their atmosphere is made up of and also what color light the central star is emitting.*
10. What makes a compass needle move around? *The magnetic lines of force that are invisible to your eye.*
11. Why do we have seasons on Earth? Do all planets have seasons? *Seasons are because the axis is tilted 23.4°, exposing one hemisphere to more sunlight each day and warming the planet. Planets without an axis tilt will not have seasons.*
12. Name three planets that have volcanoes (active or extinct)? *Mercury, Mars, Venus, Earth, Io (moon of Jupiter), Triton (moon of Neptune), Enceladus (moon of Saturn), and our very own Moon.*
13. Can you detect all kinds of light with your eyes? *No, only visible light, like a rainbow.*
14. Why is the telescope image upside-down? *Because you've focused the image beyond the focal point.*

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Student Quiz Sheet

Name _____

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11. Why do we have seasons on Earth? Do all planets have seasons?
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14. Why is the telescope image upside-down?