

The Solar System

Grade 3-5 · Ages 8-11 · Science · Earth & Space Science · ★★

Circle the correct answer for each question about space.

1. What mainly causes the ocean tides?
 (A) earthquakes
 (B) the Moon's gravity
 (C) the wind
 (D) the Sun's heat
2. What force keeps the planets orbiting the Sun?
 (A) magnetism
 (B) wind
 (C) electricity
 (D) gravity
3. What do we call a star that suddenly explodes?
 (A) a supernova
 (B) a comet
 (C) a black hole
 (D) a planet
4. What is the International Space Station?
 (A) a telescope on a mountain
 (B) a rocket to Mars
 (C) a laboratory orbiting Earth where astronauts live
 (D) a hotel on the Moon
5. What burns up most meteors before they reach the ground?
 (A) the clouds
 (B) the Moon
 (C) the oceans
 (D) Earth's atmosphere
6. Why can astronauts not breathe on the Moon?
 (A) the Moon is made of ice
 (B) it is too far from the Sun
 (C) the Moon has no air
 (D) it is too bright
7. What do we call it when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth?
 (A) a lunar eclipse
 (B) a solar eclipse
 (C) a meteor shower
 (D) a new moon
8. Titan, a moon with thick clouds, orbits which planet?
 (A) Saturn
 (B) Mercury
 (C) Mars
 (D) Venus
9. Which planet spins tilted almost on its side?
 (A) Earth
 (B) Neptune
 (C) Saturn
 (D) Uranus
10. What is a light-year?
 (A) the brightness of a star
 (B) the distance light travels in one year
 (C) the time Earth takes to orbit the Sun
 (D) a year on the Moon
11. Which star is closest to Earth after the Sun?
 (A) Proxima Centauri
 (B) Polaris
 (C) the Moon
 (D) Sirius
12. What do we call a ball of ice and dust with a long glowing tail that orbits the Sun?
 (A) a moon
 (B) an asteroid
 (C) a comet
 (D) a meteor

13. In what year did people first walk on the Moon?

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|----------|----------|
| (A) 1969 | (B) 1989 |
| (C) 1959 | (D) 1979 |

14. What gas is the Sun mostly made of?

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|--------------------|--------------|
| (A) nitrogen | (B) hydrogen |
| (C) carbon dioxide | (D) oxygen |

15. Which planet shines brightest in our night sky?

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| (A) Uranus | (B) Pluto |
| (C) Neptune | (D) Venus |

16. Which telescope was launched in 1990 and orbits Earth?

- (A) the Apollo Telescope
- (B) the Eiffel Telescope
- (C) the Hubble Space Telescope
- (D) the Galileo Telescope

17. What is the largest moon in our solar system?

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|--------------|--------------|
| (A) Phobos | (B) the Moon |
| (C) Ganymede | (D) Titan |

18. About how many Earths could fit inside the Sun?

- (A) about one hundred
- (B) about one thousand
- (C) about ten
- (D) about one million

19. Which planet has the largest volcano in the solar system?

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| (A) Mars | (B) Jupiter |
| (C) Earth | (D) Venus |

20. What is the belt of rocks between Mars and Jupiter called?

- (A) the rings of Saturn
- (B) the asteroid belt
- (C) the Kuiper belt
- (D) the Milky Way

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