

# Solar Systems and Space Task Cards

## Parts of the Solar System

\_\_\_\_\_ are large chunks of ice and dust that orbit around the sun. They streak towards the sun from the Oort Cloud and then back out into outer space. Some orbit the sun many times, while others only make one trip before disappearing or burning up.

## Comets

Answer:

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Parts of the Solar System

Found between Mars and Jupiter, the \_\_\_\_\_ contains bodies of rock and metal that orbit around the sun.

**Asteroid Belt**

**Answer:**

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## Parts of the Solar System

A \_\_\_\_\_ planet fits the following characteristics:

- It is in orbit around the Sun
- It is large enough to keep a round shape
- It has not cleared the neighborhood around its orbit
- It is not a satellite (a moon)

**Answer:** Dwarf

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Parts of the Solar System

A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ planet is considered a “rocky” planet. They have few to no moons and are relatively close to the sun.

**Answer:** Inner

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Parts of the Solar System

\_\_\_\_\_ planets are considered “gas giants” because of their large size. They typically have multiple satellites and have ring systems.

**Answer:** **Outer**

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## Parts of the Solar System

A \_\_\_\_\_ is a celestial body that makes an orbit around a planet, including the eight major planets and dwarf planets. May also be referred to as a natural satellite.

**Answer:** **Moon**

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## Inner Planets vs. Outer Planets

Why are the last 4 planets (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune) considered gas giants?

**Answer:** Composed mostly of  
gas

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Inner Planets vs. Outer Planets

Which set of planets has more moons? The inner planets or the outer planets?

**Answer:** **Outer planets**



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## Inner Planets vs. Outer Planets

Why are the first four planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars) considered to be terrestrial or “rocky” planets?

**Answer:** Made of metals and rocks, so they have a hard surface. !

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Inner Planets vs. Outer Planets

Which planets take longer to orbit the sun, inner or  
outer?

**Answer:** **Outer Planets**

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## Inner Planets vs. Outer Planets

Name two characteristics that are different about inner planets and outer planets.

**Answer:** Inner planets are smaller and rocky.

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## Inner Planets vs. Outer Planets

Name two characteristics that inner planets and outer planets have in common.

**Answer:**

They all orbit around the Sun.

They all rotate on a axis.

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## Rotation vs. Revolution

*Answer the question using either "rotation" or "revolution."*

*Day and Night are caused by the Earth's*

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer:** **Rotation**

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## Rotation vs. Revolution

*Answer the question using either "rotation" or "revolution."*

*The Earth goes through different seasons because of  
the Earth's \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Answer:** **Revolution**

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## Rotation vs. Revolution

*Answer the question using either "rotation" or "revolution."*

*On Earth, shadows appear differently throughout the day because of the Earth's \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Answer:** **Rotation**

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## Rotation vs. Revolution

*Answer the question using either "rotation" or "revolution."*

*From Earth, different constellations are visible at different times because of the Earth's*

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer:** **Revolution**



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## Rotation vs. Revolution

*Answer the question using either "rotation" or "revolution."*

*The time it takes the Earth to make one complete  
\_\_\_\_\_ around the sun is  
approximately 365.24 days.*

**Answer:** **Revolution**

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## Rotation vs. Revolution

*Answer the question using either "rotation" or "revolution."*

*The time it takes the Earth to make one complete  
\_\_\_\_\_ on its axis is approximately 23.9  
hours.*

**Answer:** **Rotation**

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Galaxies and Objects in Space

*All planets in our solar system have mass, rotate on an axis, and \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Answer:** **Orbit the Sun**

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## Galaxies and Objects in Space

*The Sun and Earth's moon appear to be the same size in the sky, even though we know that the Sun's diameter is about 400 times bigger than the Moon's. This is because the Moon is \_\_\_\_\_ to Earth than the Sun.*

**Answer:** **Closer**

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Galaxies and Objects in Space

*Sirius, one of the brightest stars visible from Earth, emits 20 times more light than our Sun. Knowing this, why does the Sun still appear to be so much bigger in the sky?*

**Answer:** **It is closer to Earth**

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Galaxies and Objects in Space

*Earth's Solar System is found in a \_\_\_\_\_ galaxy that  
is named the \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Answer:** **Spiral**  
**Milky Way**

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Galaxies and Objects in Space

*A star named Pollux gives off way more light than the star named Sirius, but Sirius still appears brighter when viewed from Earth. This is because Pollux is \_\_\_\_\_ from Earth than Sirius is.*

**Answer:** **Further away**

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Galaxies and Objects in Space

*Now considered to be a Dwarf Planet, \_\_\_\_\_ used  
to be considered the 9<sup>th</sup> planet from the Sun.*

**Answer:** **Pluto**