The Solar System
22 Questions


1. What can be thought of as "all the stuff held sway by the Sun's gravity"?
a. a)the Milky Way Galaxy
b. b)our local group
c. c)the Solar System
d. d)the inner planets

2. What percentage of the mass of the entire solar system is due to the Sun?
a. a) $27 \%$
b. b) $54 \%$
c. c) $77 \%$
d. d) $98 \%$

3. After the Sun, what is the next most massive object in the Solar System?
a. a)the Earth
b. b)Jupiter
c. c)Saturn
d. d)Uranus

4. Which ancient culture knew the Earth was a sphere, and had even measured its size?
a. a)ancient Greeks
b. b)ancient Romans
c. c)ancient Egyptians
d. d)ancient Mayans

5. In 1543, who published their work proposing a Sun-centered model of the universe?
a. a)Ptolemy
b. b)Copernicus
c. c)Kepler
d. d)Brahe

6. Who's astronomical observations were an essential contribution to Kepler's model?
a. a)Claudius Ptolemy
b. b)Nicolaus Copernicus
c. c)Tycho Brahe
d. d)Isaac Newton

7. Who realized the planets moved around the Sun in ellipses, not circles?
a. a)Claudius Ptolemy
b. b)Nicolaus Copernicus
c. c)Tycho Brahe
d. d)Johannes Kepler

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8. "Heliocentrism" refers to a model where $\qquad$
a. a)the Earth is the center the solar system
b. b)the Sun is the center of the solar system
c. c)the Moon, Sun and stars are affixed to crystal spheres
d. d)the Earth's shape is a plane or disk
9. The latin term "sol" in Solar System refers to $\qquad$
a. a)the Sun
b. b)the solitude of space
c. c)rotating planets
d. d)the spin of the planets

10. Who applied physics and calculus to determine how gravity worked?
a. a)Isaac Newton
b. b)Nicolaus Copernicus
c. c)Tycho Brahe
d. d)Johannes Kepler

11. Which object is "11 times wider than the Earth and a thousand times it's volume"?
a. a)Saturn
b. b)the Sun
c. c)Jupiter
d. d)Mars

12. Which term has been difficult to define?
a. a)asteroid
b. b)star
c. c)galaxy
d. d)planet

13. All the orbits of the planets $\qquad$
a. a)are circular
b. b)are scattered at various angles
c. c)are exactly aligned
d. d)lie in a relatively flat disk

14. Which planets are commonly referred to as the "inner planets"?
a. a)Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars
b. b)Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Jupiter
c. c)Earth, Mars, Uranus, and Neptune
d. d)Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune

15. Where is the the asteroid belt located?
a. a)between Earth and Mars
b. b)between Mars and Jupiter
c. c)between Jupiter and Saturn
d. d)out beyond the orbit of Neptune

16.What are "Kuiper Belt Objects"?
a. a)rocky ice balls beyond Neptune
b. b)planetoids in the main belt
c. c)asteroids scattered around the solar system
d. d)asteroids in between Mars and Jupiter
17.Where is the the Oort Cloud located?
a. a)between Earth and Mars
b. b)between Mars and Jupiter
c. c)between Jupiter and Saturn
d. d)out beyond the orbit of Neptune

18. When did the Solar System form?
a. a)4.6 thousand years ago
b. b)4.6 million years ago
c. c) 4.6 billion years ago
d. d)4.6 trillion years ago
19. What is the name for the "wee baby planets" that formed from clumps of dust?
a. a)planetesimals
b. b)planetoids
c. c)protoplanets
d. d)exoplanets

20.What is the term for a very young star that is still gathering mass?
a. a)protostar
b. b)nebula
c. c)molecular cloud
d. d)globule

21.What process in the Sun creates energy?
a. a)hydrogen fusing into helium
b. b)nuclear fission of helium
c. c)nuclear fission of uranium
d. d)hydrogen combustion

22. Which planets are found closer to the Sun?
a. a)rocky planets
b. b)gas giants
c. c)exoplanets
d. d)helium planets

