

1. \_\_\_\_\_ planets 

are located closest to the sun
have weather caused by internal heat
have weather caused by the sun
have surfaces covered with craters
are densest

.

- (A) Terrestrial.  
 (B) Jovian.  
 (C) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the terrestrial planet that 

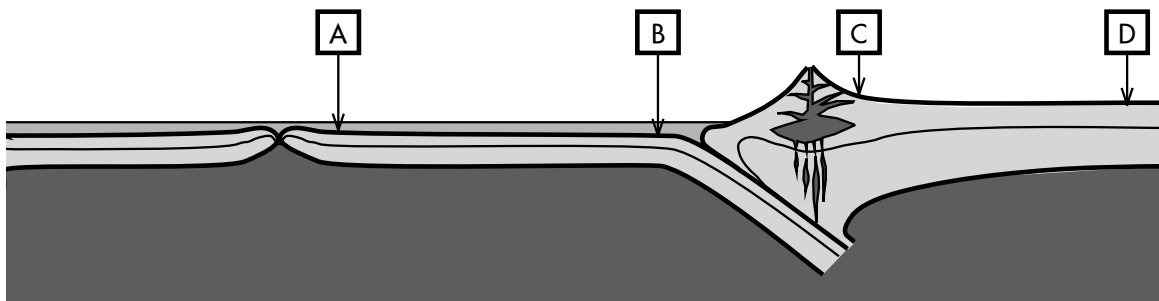
has the hottest core
is most geologically active

.

- (A) Mercury (closest to the sun).  
 (B) Venus (hottest atmosphere).  
 (C) Earth (most massive).  
 (D) Mars (tallest volcanoes).  
 (E) (The moon (formed from a large impact that formed Earth).)  
 (F) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)

3. Earth's plate tectonics is caused by:  
 (A) gradual slowing rotation.  
 (B) asteroid impacts that cracked the crust.  
 (C) convection currents underneath the crust.  
 (D) tidal forces from the moon.  
 (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)

4. In the cross-section of Earth's crust and mantle shown below, \_\_\_\_\_ is the oldest (solidified the longest time ago).  
 (A) sample A.  
 (B) sample B.  
 (C) sample C.  
 (D) sample D.  
 (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)



5. \_\_\_\_\_ is blocked by  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{carbon dioxide} \\ \text{ozone} \end{array} \right]$ .
- (A) Ultraviolet.
  - (B) Visible light.
  - (C) Infrared.
  - (D) Radio waves.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
6. An object warmed by sunlight will typically emit \_\_\_\_\_ as it cools off.
- (A) Ultraviolet.
  - (B) Visible light.
  - (C) Infrared.
  - (D) Radio waves.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
7. The  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{carbon dioxide} \\ \text{oxygen} \end{array} \right]$  in Earth's atmosphere was produced by:
- (A) volcanoes.
  - (B) oceans.
  - (C) plants.
  - (D) the greenhouse effect.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ prevent(s) Earth's atmosphere from building up too much carbon dioxide.
- (A) Volcanoes.
  - (B) Oceans.
  - (C) Infrared radiation.
  - (D) The greenhouse effect.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
9. Which feature on the moon is the  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{youngest} \\ \text{oldest} \end{array} \right]$ ?
- (A) Craters partially filled in with flat lava plains.
  - (B) Craters on top of flat lava plains.
  - (C) Flat lava plains.
  - (D) (There is a tie.)
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)

10. Which feature on Mercury is the  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{youngest} \\ \text{oldest} \end{array} \right]$ ?
- (A) Lava-filled lowlands.
  - (B) Large crater basins.
  - (C) Long curving ridges.
  - (D) (There is a tie.)
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
11. The origin of Earth's moon best supported by current evidence is that it:
- (A) formed alongside Earth.
  - (B) was captured by Earth.
  - (C) was debris from a collision.
  - (D) broke off of a spinning Earth.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
12. Evidence that Mercury's crust compressed and shrank is its:
- (A) weak magnetic field.
  - (B) long curving ridges.
  - (C) lack of atmosphere.
  - (D) huge multi-ringed Caloris Basin.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
13. Mercury's \_\_\_\_\_ is evidence that it  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{may} \\ \text{may not} \end{array} \right]$  have experienced a major impact origin.
- (A) many impact craters.
  - (B) lack of geological activity.
  - (C) large metallic core.
  - (D) easily vaporizable crust.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
14. \_\_\_\_\_ are used to compare the ages of different regions on terrestrial planets.
- (A) Impact crater densities.
  - (B) Infrared measurements.
  - (C) Volcano heat maps.
  - (D) Polar ice caps.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)

15. Earth currently has fewer impact craters than  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{its moon} \\ \text{Venus} \end{array} \right]$  because of:
- (A) the greenhouse effect.
  - (B) its magnetic field.
  - (C) plate tectonics.
  - (D) a different formation age.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
16. Venus' \_\_\_\_\_ is evidence that its crust  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{is younger than the moon's surface} \\ \text{is older than Earth's surface} \\ \text{was recently entirely covered by lava} \end{array} \right]$ .
- (A) thick atmosphere.
  - (B) runaway greenhouse effect.
  - (C) small number of impact craters.
  - (D) lack of oceans.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
17.  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{Coronae on Venus} \\ \text{Shield volcanoes on Mars} \end{array} \right]$  were produced by:
- (A) runaway greenhouse effect.
  - (B) heavy bombardment.
  - (C) oceans, when it was younger.
  - (D) vertical motion of magma under the crust.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
18. Mars' \_\_\_\_\_ is evidence that its crust  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{does not have plate tectonics} \\ \text{is very thick} \end{array} \right]$ .
- (A) thin atmosphere.
  - (B) lack of oceans.
  - (C) permafrost layers.
  - (D) large shield volcanoes.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)

19. The water remaining on  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{Venus} \\ \text{Mars} \end{array} \right]$  today is:
- (A) in the mantle.
  - (B) frozen underground.
  - (C) trapped in sediments in the crust.
  - (D) in the atmosphere.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
20. Most of the carbon dioxide from the early atmosphere of  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{Venus} \\ \text{Mars} \end{array} \right]$ :
- (A) escaped into space.
  - (B) is trapped under widespread lava flows.
  - (C) is in the mantle.
  - (D) is in the atmosphere.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
21.  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{Venus has a very thick} \\ \text{Mars has a very thin} \end{array} \right]$  atmosphere because it:
- (A) is too close to the sun.
  - (B) has plate tectonics.
  - (C) does not have enough mass.
  - (D) did not have plant life.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
22. If  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{Venus} \\ \text{Earth} \\ \text{Mars} \end{array} \right]$  had originally formed  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{closer to the sun} \\ \text{farther from the sun} \\ \text{with less mass} \\ \text{with more mass} \end{array} \right]$ , the temperature of its atmosphere would now be:
- (A) cooler.
  - (B) approximately the same.
  - (C) warmer.
  - (D) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)

23. Jupiter's \_\_\_\_\_ is evidence that it 

emits more heat than it absorbs from the sun
has liquid metallic hydrogen
is mostly liquid

.
- (A) belt-zone clouds.  
(B) flattened shape.  
(C) infrared radiation.  
(D) strong magnetic field.  
(E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
24. Jupiter's \_\_\_\_\_ makes its belt-zone clouds have 

more active weather patterns
bolder colors

 than Saturn's belt-zone clouds.
- (A) mass.  
(B) distance from the sun.  
(C) density.  
(D) magnetic fields.  
(E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
25. Neptune has more atmospheric circulation than Uranus because Neptune:
- (A) is closer to the sun.  
(B) has more moons.  
(C) has a warmer core.  
(D) rotates faster.  
(E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
26. \_\_\_\_\_ may explain how the interior of Uranus became cooler than Neptune's.
- (A) More mass.  
(B) Dissolved ammonia and methane.  
(C) Closer orbit to the sun.  
(D) A large impact.  
(E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)

27. The magnetic fields of Uranus and Neptune may be generated by:
- (A) rotating molten iron cores.
  - (B) tidal interactions with the other jovian planets.
  - (C) energy from the sun.
  - (D) circulation of electrically conducting material.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
28. Under the new International Astronomical Union classification scheme,
- [ Pluto is now classified as a dwarf planet instead of a planet  
Ceres is now classified as a dwarf planet instead of an asteroid ] because it:
- (A) has a tilted orbit around the sun.
  - (B) has a spherical shape.
  - (C) did not clear its orbit.
  - (D) does not have moons.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
29. According to the International Astronomical Union classification scheme, if [ Pluto  
Ceres ] were
- placed in [ orbit around Earth  
the Kuiper belt  
orbit around the sun, between Earth and Mars ], it would be:
- (A) a moon.
  - (B) solar system debris.
  - (C) a dwarf planet.
  - (D) a planet.
  - (E) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)

30. Listed below are the minimal qualifications established by the International Astronomical Union for a planet:

- I. Orbits the sun.
- II. Shape "rounded-out" by gravity.
- III. Cleared/dominates orbit around sun.

Which qualification(s) are met by  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{a dwarf planet} \\ \text{a small asteroid} \\ \text{a comet} \\ \text{Earth's moon} \end{array} \right] ?$

- (A) I only.
- (B) II only.
- (C) III only.
- (D) Both I and II.
- (E) Both II and III.
- (F) Both I and III.
- (G) I, II, and III.
- (H) (None of the above choices.)

31. Listed below are the minimal qualifications established by the International Astronomical Union for a planet:

- I. Orbits the sun.
- II. Shape "rounded-out" by gravity.
- III. Cleared/dominates orbit around sun.

Which solar system object(s) only meets qualification(s)  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{I} \\ \text{II} \\ \text{III} \end{array} \right] ?$

- (A) Mars.
- (B) Io, a moon of Jupiter nearly the same size as Mercury.
- (C) Eris, a dwarf planet.
- (D) Parnethope, an irregular-shaped asteroid.
- (E) (More than one of the above choices.)
- (F) (All of the above choices.)
- (G) (None of the above choices.)
- (H) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)



Listed below are the minimal qualifications established by the International Astronomical Union for a planet:

- I. Orbits the sun.
  - II. Shape "rounded-out" by gravity.
  - III. Cleared/controls orbit around sun.
- 32.** Cruithne, an irregularly shaped body sharing Earth's orbit around the sun, is sometimes referred to as "Earth's second moon<sup>1</sup>." According to the IAU qualifications, Cruithne is classified as:
- (A) a moon.
  - (B) solar system debris.
  - (C) a dwarf planet.
  - (D) a planet.
  - (E) (None of the above choices.)
  - (F) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
- 33.** Vulcanoids<sup>2</sup> are hypothesized to be a group of irregularly shaped bodies inside of Mercury's orbit around the sun. According to the IAU qualifications, Vulcanoids would be classified as:
- (A) moons.
  - (B) solar system debris.
  - (C) dwarf planets.
  - (D) planets.
  - (E) (None of the above choices.)
  - (F) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)
- 34.** Caduceus<sup>3</sup> is purported to be an irregularly shaped body in orbit around Mercury. According to the IAU qualifications, Caduceus would be classified as:
- (A) a moon.
  - (B) solar system debris.
  - (C) a dwarf planet.
  - (D) a planet.
  - (E) (None of the above choices.)
  - (F) (Unsure/guessing/lost/help!)

---

<sup>1</sup> Lynn Carter, "Have Astronomers Discovered Earth's Second Moon?" [curious.astro.cornell.edu/question.php?number=578](http://curious.astro.cornell.edu/question.php?number=578).

<sup>2</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Vulcan\\_\(astronomy\)#Vulcan\\_revived](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Vulcan_(astronomy)#Vulcan_revived).

<sup>3</sup> [messenger.jhuapl.edu/gallery/sciencePhotos/image.php?gallery\\_id=2&image\\_id=811](http://messenger.jhuapl.edu/gallery/sciencePhotos/image.php?gallery_id=2&image_id=811).  
20.02.27

*(Subjective)*

35. 

Pluto
Ceres

 should still be a planet.

- (A) Strongly disagree.
- (B) Disagree.
- (C) Neutral.
- (D) Agree.
- (E) Strongly agree.

*(Subjective)*

36. 

Pluto
Ceres

 should be a dwarf planet.

- (A) Strongly disagree.
- (B) Disagree.
- (C) Neutral.
- (D) Agree.
- (E) Strongly agree.