
Exercise C1: The Inner Planets of the Solar System

Student name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Check the box with the correct answer.

Question 1: What evidence suggests that the inner planets were formed from the same rotating cloud of gas and dust?

- a. Mercury rotates more slowly on its axis than Mars.
- b. The planets obey Kepler's laws.
- c. The planets orbit the Sun in the same direction.
- d. Asteroids are found outside the orbit of Mars.

Question 2: From the view in the main window, which of the inner planets have the most eccentric orbits?

- a. Mercury and Venus
- b. Venus and Earth
- c. Earth and Mars
- d. Mercury and Mars

Question 3: What is the length of a Mercury day in Earth days?

- a. 96 days
- b. 176 days
- c. 58.6 days
- d. 24 days

Question 4: Most planets in our solar system rotate in a counter-clockwise direction. What is unusual about the rotation of Venus?

- a. Venus does not rotate.
- b. Venus rotates from west to east.
- c. Venus rotates in the same direction as all the other planets.
- d. Venus rotates in the opposite direction, clockwise.

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Question 5: Mars has two small moons orbiting around it. Both are tiny and irregular in shape and believed to be captured asteroids. What are the approximate orbital periods of Phobos and Deimos respectively?

- a. 7 days and 1 day
- b. 7 hours 30 minutes and 1 day 6 hours
- c. 14 days and 2 days
- d. 15 hours and 2 days 12 hours

Question 6: Which planet(s) are found in the Sun's habitable zone?

- a. Earth
- b. Earth and Venus
- c. Venus, Earth and Mars
- d. Earth and Mars