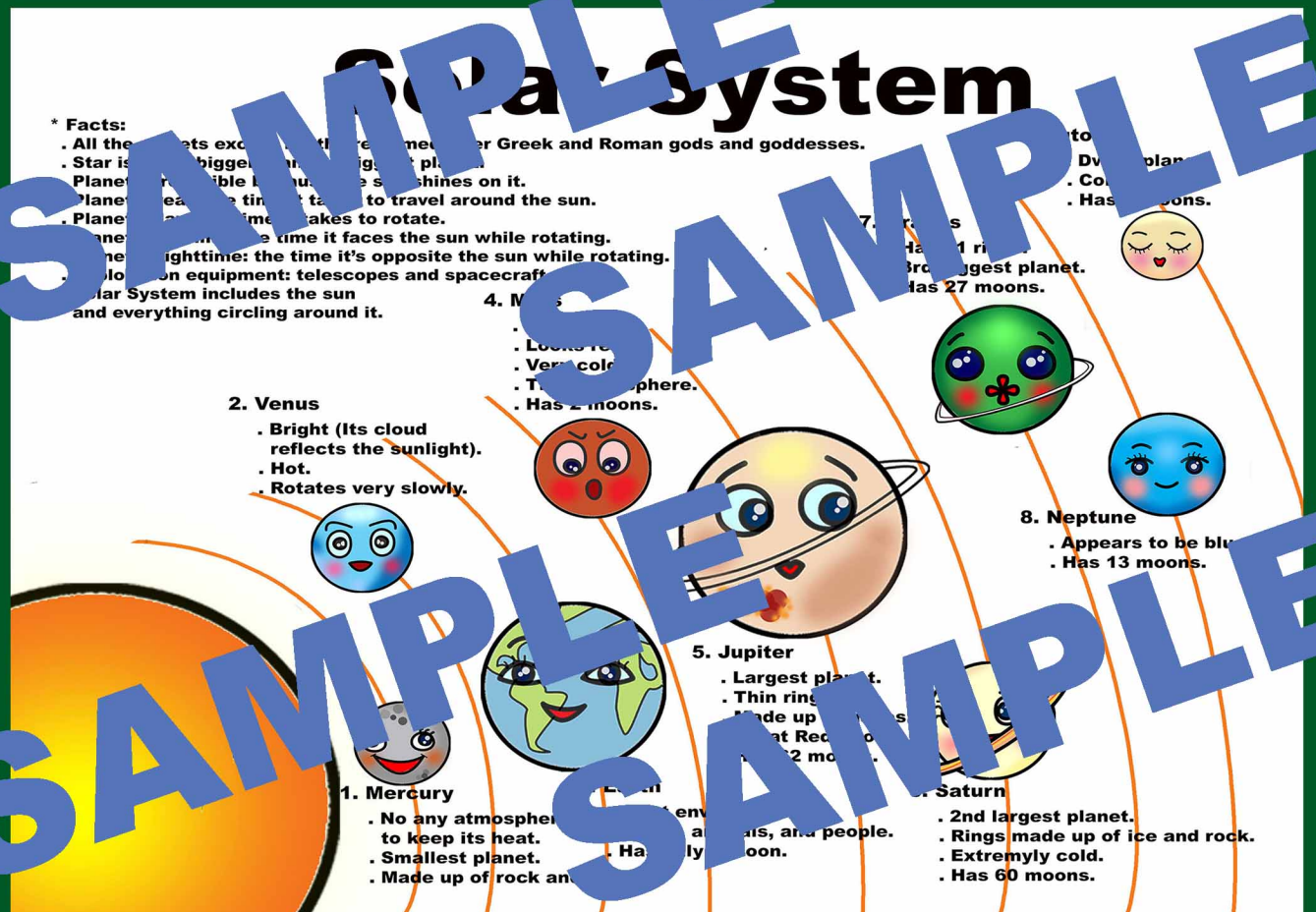


# Close Reading

Plus Writing Activities

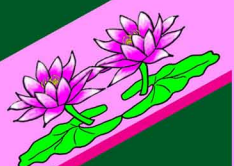
## THE PLANETS

By Gail Gibbons



Teaching Astronomy Science through  
Reading, Comprehension, Vocabulary,  
Posters, and Reflection

Qiang Ma



# Solar System

## \* Facts:

- All the planets except Earth are named after Greek and Roman gods and goddesses.
- Star is much bigger than the biggest planet.
- Planets are visible because the sun shines on it.
- Planet's year: the time it takes to travel around the sun.
- Planet's day: the time it takes to rotate on its axis.
- Planet's night: the time it takes to be opposite the sun while rotating.
- Exploration equipment like telescopes and spacecraft.
- Solar System includes the sun and everything orbiting around it.

### 2. Venus

- Bright (Its cloud reflects the sunlight).
- Hot.
- Rotates very slowly.

### 1. Mercury

- No any atmosphere to keep its heat.
- Smallest planet.
- Made up of rock and metal.

### 3. Earth

- Right environment for plants, animals, and people.
- Has only 1 moon.

### 5. Jupiter

- Largest planet.
- Thin rings.
- Made up of gas.
- Great Red Spot.
- Has 62 moons.

### 7. Uranus

- Has 11 rings.
- 3rd biggest planet.
- Has 27 moons.

### Pluto

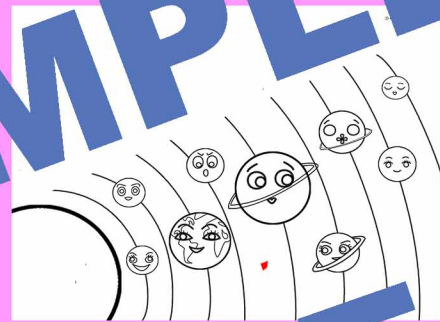
- Dwarf planet.
- Cold.
- Has 3 moons.

### 8. Neptune

- Appears to be blue.
- Has 13 moons.

### 6. Saturn

- 2nd largest planet.
- Rings made up of ice and rock.
- Extremely cold.
- Has 60 moons.



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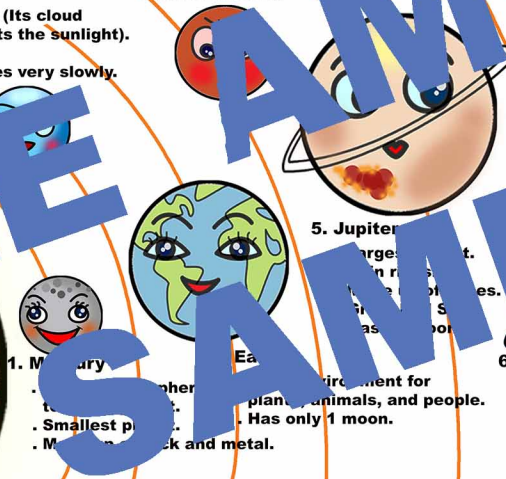
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Colors to mark the passages to remember

- Highlight the title in yellow.
- Underline topic sentence in green.
- Circle the important words about planets in red.
- Use close reading symbols throughout text.

Close reading symbols:

- Star (\*) – something important
- Exclamation mark (!) – something new, something that is surprising
- Question mark (?) – unsure, don't understand it

The main idea of these passages is to \_\_\_\_\_

What have you learned about planets?

The main idea of these passages is to introduce the basic information about our solar system.

What have you learned about planets?

I learned that each planet rotates \_\_\_\_\_ of while orbiting the sun.

## Text Dependent Questions

What are the differences between a planet and a star?
How many planets in our solar system? List their names.
Explain how the year and the day are defined for planets.

## Text Dependent Questions (1)

List two facts to show the differences between a planet and a star.	Some differences are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A star shines while a planet does not.</li><li>A star is very much bigger than a planet.</li></ul>
How many planets in our solar system? List their names.	There are eight planets in our solar system: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune with Pluto as a dwarf planet.
Explain how the year and the day are defined for planets.	The time it takes for a planet to travel around the sun is its year. The time it takes for a planet to rotate is its day.
Explain how the daytime and nighttime are defined for planets.	Planets are rotating, part of the planet is daytime. On the other side is nighttime.

## (1) Introduction of the Planets

On a clear night when stars shine brightly, you might see what looks like another star. But each night it changes position in the star pattern. A planet is different from a star. People can tell the difference because it. A star shines because it is made up of burning gases that give off light and heat. Our sun is a star. Every star is much bigger than the biggest planet. Planets move through the sky. They are made of rock, gas, and ice. Some planets have rings. Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn have rings. Pluto was discovered in 1930. It is the only planet that is not in the same orbit as the other planets. It is one of the planets that circle the sun. Together they make up the solar system. The word *solar* means "connected to the sun." The planets circle around the sun in paths called orbits.

The year, day, daytime and nighttime of each planet are defined in a different way. The time it takes for a planet to travel around the sun is its year. planet's year is different. While a planet is orbiting around the sun, it is daytime, too. It spins, or rotates. The time it takes for a planet to day. Each planet's day is different. While a planet is rotating, part of the sun. It is daytime there. On the other side it is nighttime.

We are always learning about the planets, the stars, and what lie Astronomers search the skies through telescopes. Spacecraft are sent into system and beyond in search of new discoveries.

The Planets by Gail Gibbons Close Reading ©Qiang Ma  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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## (8) Uranus

Uranus is the seventh planet from the sun. It is about 1.8 billion km away. It is so far away that from its surface the sun would look tiny. Uranus is the third biggest planet, about one-third the size of Jupiter. It has twenty-seven moons orbit around it. Planets farther from the sun have more time to travel around the sun. For Uranus to make one orbit it takes about 84 Earth years.

Neptune is the eighth planet from the sun. It is about 4.5 billion km away. Neptune appears to be blue because of a gas in its atmosphere. It is almost the same size as Uranus. Neptune is the third farthest planet from the sun. It is about 2.8 billion miles (4.5 billion km) away. Neptune appears to be blue because of a gas in its atmosphere. It is almost the same size as Uranus.

## (10) Pluto

After its discovery in 1930, Pluto was known as the ninth planet. Now there are eight planets. Because of its size and unusual orbit, it was reclassified as a dwarf planet. Sometimes its orbit carries it closer to the sun than Neptune. It is about 4.6 billion miles (7.4 billion km) from the sun.

Pluto is cold. It is smaller than Earth's moon. It has three moons. One is called Charon. One year on Pluto is about 248 Earth years long. One day on Pluto is about 6 Earth days long.

The Planets by Gail Gibbons Close Reading ©Qiang Ma  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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One of Neptune's thirteen moons, Triton, is about the same size as planet Earth's moon. The spacecraft Voyager II visited Neptune in 1989. One Neptune year is 165 Earth years. Neptune rotates in about 16 Earth hours.

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Pluto is cold. It is smaller than Earth's moon. It has three known moons. The largest is called Charon. One year on Pluto is about 248 Earth years long. A day on Pluto is about 6 Earth days long.

## Vocabulary

astronomer	Someone who studies the stars and planets.
moon	A large natural object orbits a planet with no light of its own.
planet	A large body that orbits around a star.
rings	Circular bands of rocks, dust, and gas that surround a planet.
solar system	A system that includes the sun and everything circling around it.
atmosphere	A layer of air surrounding Earth.

## Text Dependent Questions (4)

Mercury	1. Draw the planet.
Venus	2. Position to the sun.
Earth	3. Distance to the sun.
Mars	4. A day = Earth day/hours?
Jupiter	5. List the number of moons.
Saturn	6. Have rings around?
Uranus	7. Any other facts?
Neptune	8. Dwarf planet?
Pluto	9. Dwarf planet?

Text Dependent Questions

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## Getting Started: Planets Close Reading

1. It is suggested to get the following items ready.

Items needed	Teacher	Student
The Book <u>The Planets</u> by Gail Gibbons	V	
Lesson Plan	V	
Vocab Poster	V *	
Informational Text	V	
Blank paper for drawing on Day 1	V	
10 Reading Passages	V	V
4 Text Dependent Questions Sets	V	V
Vocabulary	V	V
1 Planets Black and White Drawing	V	
1 Planets Black and White Drawing with labels		
1 Planets Color Drawing	*	*
1 Planets Color Drawing with labels	Teacher can blow the original black and white sample into a poster and color it.	Student may color the original black and white sample in poster and color it. It makes a great open house project.
Teacher's Lesson Plan Package: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planets Color Drawing with labels</li> <li>• Vocab Poster with Post-it notes</li> <li>• Info Organizer completed</li> <li>• 10 Reading Passages with marked answers</li> <li>• 4 Text Dependent Questions Sets with answers</li> <li>• Vocab Sheet with answers</li> <li>• 1 Teacher Writing Sample</li> <li>• 1 Student Individual Writing Samples</li> </ul>	It is as much as possible for you to read easily. In real time, you are going to hand write to model for your students.	
Sharp Pencils	V	V
Color Markers	V	V
Post-It	*	

V: must, \* = optional

2. Read the lesson plan.
3. Look at the included sample works included.
4. Photocopy 1-page package (1 Empty page for drawing, 1 Info Organizer, 10 Reading Passages, 4 Text Dependent Questions Sets, and 1 Vocab sheet) for student use. Take an extra set for the teacher to use.
5. The lesson is designed as cross-curricular among ELA, Science/Astronomy/Planets, and Fine Arts using close reading and ELAD strategies.



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# Credits

I draw all the clipart myself for all the products in my store.

Thank you so much and I hope you enjoy this lesson.

