



knowledge quiz

Solar System

Name _____

1. The sun is
 - A. the only star in our galaxy.
 - B. just one of billions of stars that make up our galaxy.**
 - C. the largest planet in our solar system.
 - D. technically speaking, one of Earth's moons.
2. Which of these features makes the Earth unique among planets?
 - A. It is the only round planet.
 - B. It is the only planet with its own moon.
 - C. It is the only planet that has enough oxygen in its atmosphere to sustain life.**
 - D. It is the only ringed planet.
3. Comets are icy masses of frozen gases and dust particles. What happens when a comet gets too close to the sun?
 - A. The gases catch fire, making the comet glow.
 - B. The ice begins to melt, leaving a trail of gases and debris.**
 - C. The comet explodes, which is called a supernova.
 - D. The comet bounces off the sun's magnetosphere.
4. What did 17th-century astronomer Edmund Halley notice about the comet later named after him?
 - A. The comet passed by the Earth on a predictable schedule.**
 - B. The comet passed by the Earth at random intervals.
 - C. The comet passed by Earth only once in a million years.
 - D. The comet was on a collision course with Earth.
5. What is a meteorite?
 - A. a chunk of comet (rock) that survives our atmosphere and falls to Earth**
 - B. a meteor that hasn't hit Earth yet
 - C. a piece of rock that is in orbit around the Earth
 - D. a radioactive moon rock



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6. What is the central and largest body of our solar system?
 - A. Jupiter
 - B. the Milky Way
 - C. Earth
 - D. the sun

7. The fates of the sun and the Earth are linked. Which of the following explains why this statement is true?
 - A. Without the Earth in orbit, the sun would quickly burn up.
 - B. Without the heat and light from the sun, life on Earth will cease.
 - C. Without each other, they would both spin out of control.
 - D. Without the sun to cool things off, the interior of the Earth would burn up the planet.

8. Planets have elliptical orbits. This means that
 - A. their orbits are perfectly round.
 - B. their orbits are in the shape of a figure eight.
 - C. at some point of its orbit, a planet is closer to the sun.
 - D. their orbits change direction from time to time.

9. We have a 24-hour day because that is
 - A. the length of time it takes for the moon to travel around the Earth.
 - B. the length of time it takes the Earth to rotate once around its axis.
 - C. the length of time it takes the Earth to travel once around the sun.
 - D. the length of time it takes the sun to rotate once around its axis.

10. On Earth one year is
 - A. the length of time for the moon to travel once around the Earth.
 - B. the length of time for the Earth to rotate once around its axis.
 - C. the length of time for the sun to travel once around the Earth.
 - D. the length of time for the Earth to travel once around the sun.