Space Neighborhood Notes

Sort Solar System objects by what they are and how they move.

SC.5.E.5.3 "Distinguish among the following objects of the Solar System -- Sun, planets, moons, asteroids, comets -- and identify Earth's position in it."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the first time the passage names each of these five kinds of Solar System objects: Sun, planet, moon, asteroid, and comet. Circle the sentence that tells Earth's position, so you can compare how the objects are alike and different.

Objects Moving Through Space

1. The Solar System is a busy neighborhood in space. At its center is the Sun, a star that gives off light and heat. Gravity from the Sun keeps many objects moving around it. Eight planets travel in paths called orbits. Earth is the third planet from the Sun, after Mercury and Venus. It takes Earth about one year to complete one trip around the Sun.

2. A planet is a large, nearly round object that travels around the Sun. Planets do not make their own light. Some planets have moons. A moon is a natural object that travels around a planet. Earth has one moon, while other planets have many or none. A moon is not a planet because its path is around a planet, not directly around the Sun.

3. Asteroids are rocky objects that orbit the Sun. Many are found in a region between Mars and Jupiter called the asteroid belt, although asteroids can travel elsewhere. Comets also orbit the Sun, but they contain ice, dust, and rock. When a comet comes near the Sun, heat can form a glowing cloud and a tail. The tail points away from the Sun.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How is the Sun different from a planet?

2. How is a moon's path different from a planet's path?

3. What is Earth's position in the Solar System?

4. Give one difference between an asteroid and a comet.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Complete the five-row Solar System guide. Use one row for the Sun, Earth as a planet, a moon, an asteroid, and a comet. Include Earth's position in the planet row.

OBJECT	WHAT IT ORBITS OR WHERE IT IS	ONE IDENTIFYING FEATURE

ANSWER KEY

Space Neighborhood Notes

GRADE 5 · SC.5.E.5.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the first time the passage names each of these five kinds of Solar System objects: Sun, planet, moon, asteroid, and comet. Circle the sentence that tells Earth's position, so you can compare how the objects are alike and different. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is the Sun different from a planet?	**The Sun is a star that gives off light and heat. A planet travels around the Sun and does not make its own light.**
2	How is a moon's path different from a planet's path?	**A moon travels around a planet. A planet travels around the Sun.**
3	What is Earth's position in the Solar System?	**Earth is the third planet from the Sun, after Mercury and Venus.**
4	Give one difference between an asteroid and a comet.	**An asteroid is rocky. A comet contains ice, dust, and rock, and it can form a glowing cloud and tail near the Sun.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

OBJECT	WHAT IT ORBITS OR WHERE IT IS	ONE IDENTIFYING FEATURE
Sun	At the center of the Solar System	A star that gives off light and heat
Planet: Earth	Orbits the Sun and is third from it	Large and nearly round, does not make its own light
Moon	Orbits a planet	A natural object
Asteroid	Orbits the Sun, often in the asteroid belt	Rocky object
Comet	Orbits the Sun	Contains ice, dust, and rock; can form a tail near the Sun

Accept accurate wording that distinguishes each object by its features or path. In the completed guide, require all five object types and Earth identified as the third planet from the Sun.