

Planet Path

Read for the planets' order from the Sun.

3.9.B "identify the order of the planets in Earth's solar system in relation to the Sun."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each of the eight planet names. Then write 1 through 8 above the names to show their order from the Sun.

A Place for Every Planet

- ① Our solar system has one star, the Sun, and eight planets. A planet travels around the Sun on a path called an orbit. The planets have a set order because each one has its own place from the Sun. Knowing the order helps scientists describe each planet's place in the solar system with clear words.
- ② Closest to the Sun is Mercury. Second is Venus, a bright planet often seen near sunrise or sunset. Third is Earth, the planet where we live. Mars is fourth. These four planets are the inner planets. They are smaller and rockier than the giant planets farther from the Sun. Their surfaces are solid and rugged.
- ③ After Mars comes Jupiter in fifth place. Saturn is sixth and is known for its wide rings. Uranus is seventh, and Neptune is eighth and farthest from the Sun. The order does not change when planets move along their orbits. Pluto is a dwarf planet, so it is not one of the eight planets in our solar system.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which planet is third from the Sun?

2 What planet comes immediately after Mars when moving away from the Sun?

3 Name the planets in fifth through eighth place, in order from the Sun.

4 A spaceship passes Venus while traveling away from the Sun. What are the next two planets it will reach?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Pretend your spaceship leaves the Sun. Write an eight-stop route. Number each stop and name the planets in the order you would reach them.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each of the eight planet names. Then write 1 through 8 above the names to show their order from the Sun. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which planet is third from the Sun?	Earth.
2	What planet comes immediately after Mars when moving away from the Sun?	Jupiter.
3	Name the planets in fifth through eighth place, in order from the Sun.	Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune.
4	A spaceship passes Venus while traveling away from the Sun. What are the next two planets it will reach?	Earth, then Mars.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

1. Mercury 2. Venus 3. Earth 4. Mars 5. Jupiter 6. Saturn 7. Uranus 8. Neptune

Accept the eight planets only when they are ordered Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune. Accept ordinal words or numerals for the route numbers.