

Name _____

DISCOVERING NEW PLANETS

Directions: Read the information below, searching for the planet that you believe may be the most suitable for human life.

	Mercury	Venus	Earth	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Uranus	Neptune
Mass (10^{24} kg)	0.330	4.87	5.97	0.642	1898	568	86.8	102
Distance from the Sun (10^6 km)	57.9	108.2	149.6	227.9	778.6	1433.5	2872.5	4495.1
Length of Day (in hours)	422.6	2802.0	24.0	24.7	9.9	10.7	17.2	16.1
Gravity (m/s^2)	3.7	8.9	9.8	3.7	23.1	9.0	8.7	11.0
Length of Year (days)	88.0	224.7	265.2	687	4331	10,747	30,589	90,560
Average Temperature (in degrees Celsius)	167	464	15	-65	-110	-140	-195	-200
Number of Moons	0	0	1	2	67	62	27	14
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craters • Has magnetic tornadoes • Has volcanoes • Daily temperature has a range of over 1,000 degrees C. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closest distance to Earth • Has volcanoes and mountains • Temperatures hot enough to melt lead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th largest planet • Only known planet with life • Axis tilted at about 23.5 degrees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has volcanoes and craters • Dust storms • Tilted axis allows it to have seasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No consistent magnetic field • Water cannot stay liquid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrounded by clouds made from ammonia and water • Surface is made up of hydrogen and helium (like the sun) • Axis is tilted like Earth, so it experiences seasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Axis tilted at about a 90° angle • Rotates in the opposite direction of Earth • Most of the surface is liquid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made up of hydrogen and helium • Magnetic field is 27 times stronger than Earth's • Geysers that shoot ice several miles into the sky

*Source: Adapted from <http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/factsheet/> and <http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/>