Solar System Planets

Choose one answer per question. Circle A, B, C, or D.

1. Which planet lies between Mercury and Earth?
   A. Venus
   B. Mars
   C. Jupiter
   D. Neptune

2. Which planet comes immediately after Saturn when the planets are listed from nearest to farthest from the Sun?
   A. Neptune
   B. Jupiter
   C. Uranus
   D. Mars

3. Which of the eight planets has the largest average distance from the Sun?
   A. Mercury
   B. Neptune
   C. Earth
   D. Saturn

4. Which of these groups contains only rocky planets?
   A. Earth, Mars, and Neptune
   B. Venus, Earth, and Jupiter
   C. Mercury, Saturn, and Venus
   D. Mercury, Earth, and Mars

5. Which of the eight planets has the smallest diameter?
   A. Mars
   B. Mercury
   C. Earth
   D. Venus

6. Which planet contains Olympus Mons, a volcano much higher than Mount Everest?
   A. Mars
   B. Venus
   C. Mercury
   D. Uranus

7. What would a close look reveal in Saturn’s bright rings?
   A. A ring of identical rocky planets
   B. One solid sheet joined to the planet
   C. Stationary clouds that never orbit
   D. Many separate ice and rock particles in orbit

8. Which planet completes one rotation in about ten hours, the shortest rotation period among the planets?
   A. Earth
   B. Mars
   C. Jupiter
   D. Mercury

9. Which planet spins about an axis that lies nearly in the plane of its orbit?
   A. Uranus
   B. Neptune
   C. Jupiter
   D. Mars

10. Which planet takes the longest to travel once around the Sun: Venus, Mars, Jupiter, or Saturn?
   A. Jupiter
   B. Venus
   C. Mars
   D. Saturn

11. On Mercury, what does the interval of about 176 Earth days measure?
   A. The time to rotate once relative to the distant stars
   B. The time to orbit the Sun once
   C. The time from one sunrise to the next at a given spot
   D. The time for sunlight to travel from the Sun to Mercury

12. Which pair belongs to the ice-giant class rather than the gas-giant class in NASA’s planet grouping?
   A. Jupiter and Saturn
   B. Uranus and Neptune
   C. Earth and Mars
   D. Mercury and Venus

13. Imagine standing on Venus and being able to see the horizon through its clouds. In which direction would the Sun rise?

A. South
B. East
C. North
D. West

14. Astronomers found small discrepancies in Uranus’s predicted motion. What did that observation help them do in 1846?

A. Predict where to look for Neptune.
B. Measure the thickness of Saturn’s rings.
C. Find the first volcano on Mars.
D. Determine the length of a day on Mercury.

15. Neptune was discovered in 1846. It completed its first full orbit since that discovery in 2011. About how long is one Neptunian year?

A. 127 Earth years
B. 82 Earth years
C. 165 Earth years
D. 365 Earth years