THE SOLAR SYSTEM · PART 9 OF 9 · AGES 11–16

Solar System Quiz

Ten questions on the whole series. Answer them all, then turn the page round to check.

1 **Which planet is fourth from the Sun, just before the asteroid belt?**

- A Earth
- B Mars
- C Jupiter
- D Venus

2 **What is one astronomical unit (AU)?**

- A The distance light travels in a year
- B Earth's average distance from the Sun
- C The width of the Sun
- D The distance from Earth to the Moon

3 **According to NASA (August 2026), which planet has the most confirmed moons?**

- A Jupiter
- B Uranus
- C Saturn
- D Neptune

4 **Which of these is a rocky (terrestrial) planet?**

- A Neptune
- B Saturn
- C Uranus
- D Venus

5 **Which of these is a dwarf planet found in the asteroid belt?**

- A Ceres
- B Pluto
- C Eris
- D Ganymede

6 **Why did the giant planets form far from the Sun?**

- A Gravity is stronger far from the Sun
- B Beyond the frost line, ice could freeze
- C The Sun pushed all the gas outwards
- D They were captured from another star

7 **Which spacecraft is the only one to have flown past Uranus and Neptune?**

- A Voyager 1
- B Voyager 2
- C New Horizons
- D Hubble

8 **Earth is closest to the Sun in early January. What really causes the seasons?**

9 **Pluto orbits the Sun and is round. Which part of the IAU's 2006 planet definition does it fail?**

10 **What is the difference between a meteor and a meteorite?**

ANSWERS

1. B: Mars
2. B: Earth's average distance from the Sun, about 150 million km
3. C: Saturn, with 293 (Jupiter has 115)
4. D: Venus (the others are giant planets)
5. A: Ceres (Pluto and Eris are beyond Neptune; Ganymede is a moon)
6. B: Beyond the frost line ice froze too, so cores grew big enough to pull in gas
7. B: Voyager 2 (Uranus in 1986, Neptune in 1989)
8. Earth's 23.4° tilt: the hemisphere leaning towards the Sun gets more direct light and longer days.
9. It has not cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit: it shares it with many Kuiper Belt objects.
10. A meteor is the streak of light as a space rock burns up in the air; a meteorite is a piece that reaches the ground.

SERIES COMPLETE

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