

Venus

By Cindy Grigg

¹ Venus is the second planet from the sun. It is 67 million miles away from the sun. You can see Venus shining low in the western sky at night. It looks like a very bright star. Venus is not a star. It does not make its own light. It reflects light from the sun. It is the brightest object in the night sky except for the moon. It is so bright because its thick clouds reflect the sun's light like a mirror. It was named by the Romans for their goddess of love and beauty.

² Venus is sometimes called Earth's twin. This is because Venus and Earth are almost the same size. They weigh about the same and are made of the same material. Because Venus is about the same size as Earth, gravity is close to the same on both planets. If you weigh 100 pounds on Earth, you would weigh 91 pounds on Venus. However, Venus and Earth are also very different.

³ Venus has no moons. It is a dry, hot planet. Venus is covered with thick, yellow clouds. Strong winds blow all the time. Venus does not have life. Venus does not have water oceans like Earth does. Venus, like Earth, has active volcanoes that erupt lava onto its surface.

⁴ A planet's day is the time it takes the planet to rotate or spin once on its axis. Venus rotates much more slowly than Earth does, so a day on Venus is much longer than a day on Earth. A day on Venus is 243 Earth days. Venus also rotates backwards compared to the Earth and most of the other planets. Venus rotates from east to west, while Earth rotates from west to east. If you could land on Venus, you would see the sun rise in the west and set in the east!

⁵ Venus also orbits the sun in the opposite direction that most of our planets orbit. The only other planet that orbits in the opposite direction is Uranus. A planet's year is the time it takes the planet to make one complete orbit around the sun. A year on Venus is 225 Earth-days long. Actually, a day on Venus is longer than a year on Venus!



Name _____

Date _____

Venus

<p>1. Venus is the _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Closest planet to the sun</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Third planet from the sun</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Second planet from the sun</p>	<p>2. We can see Venus from Earth without a telescope.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A False</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B True</p>
<p>3. Venus is sometimes called:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Earth's twin</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B The biggest planet</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C The opposite of Earth</p>	<p>4. Venus has _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A No moons</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Two moons</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C One moon</p>
<p>5. Venus is like Earth because _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A They both have people living on them.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B They both have oceans, air, and plant life.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C They are about the same size and have about the same amount of gravity.</p>	<p>6. If you weighed 100 pounds on Earth, you would weigh:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A 91 pounds on Venus</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B 36 pounds on Venus</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C 243 pounds on Venus</p>
<p>7. What is a "day"?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A The time it takes for a planet to orbit the sun.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B The time it takes a moon to orbit a planet.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C The time it takes for a planet to rotate once on its axis.</p>	<p>8. What is a "year"?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A The time it takes for a planet to rotate once on its axis.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B The time it takes for a planet to orbit the sun.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C The time it takes the sun to orbit a planet.</p>
<p>9. How long is a day on Venus?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A The same as on Earth</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B 225 Earth days</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C 243 Earth days</p>	<p>10. How long is a year on Venus?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A 225 Earth days</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B 243 Earth days</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C The same as on Earth</p>

