

- _____ 12. How can you tell that Pluto is not a gas giant?
- a. because of where it orbits the sun
 - b. because it has no ring system
 - c. because it is dense and rocky
 - d. because it has only one moon
- _____ 13. What causes a high surface temperature on Venus?
- a. The acid content of its atmosphere.
 - b. The planet's fast period of rotation.
 - c. The planet's retrograde spin on its axis.
 - d. The greenhouse effect of its atmosphere.
- _____ 14. What evidence suggests that Mars once had a warmer climate?
- a. water in its ice caps
 - b. thin atmospheric pressure
 - c. features like dry riverbeds
 - d. an extinct shield volcano
- _____ 15. Which terrestrial planet has a day that is over two Earth months long?
- a. Mars
 - b. Mercury
 - c. Pluto
 - d. Venus
- _____ 16. Why is Venus sometimes called Earth's twin?
- a. Venus rotates in the same direction.
 - b. Venus's air has the same gases.
 - c. Venus is the same size and density.
 - d. Venus was born at the same time.
- _____ 17. What is one factor that makes life possible on Earth?
- a. a run-away greenhouse effect
 - b. liquid water on its surface
 - c. high surface gravity
 - d. an irregular planetary orbit
- _____ 18. Which of the following is the largest planet in our solar system?
- a. Earth
 - b. Jupiter
 - c. Saturn
 - d. Uranus
- _____ 19. What causes the phases of the moon?
- a. the relative positions of the moon, Earth, and the sun
 - b. the tilted orbit of the moon
 - c. the moons period of revolution just equals its period of rotation
 - d. sunlight reflecting off Earth's surface
- _____ 20. What happens during a total solar eclipse?
- a. The shadow of Earth falls on the moon.
 - b. A thin ring of the sun shows through.
 - c. The moon completely covers the sun.
 - d. The moon is about the same size as the sun.
- _____ 21. Why do planets or moons with atmospheres have fewer impacts?
- a. The air slows and burns up small objects.
 - b. Fewer objects orbit near these planets.
 - c. Most impacts occur in remote areas.
 - d. Erosion erases the features of most craters.
- _____ 22. What is the main difference between an asteroid and a meteoroid?
- a. the shape of their orbits
 - b. their density
 - c. the size of the body
 - d. their effect on Earth