

**WORD SEARCH**

Find the words listed below in the word search box.

P D Y W O R T  
 S L N U S Y Z  
 N E A R T H C  
 A H B N S X R  
 M U M N E R A  
 U D N O Q T T  
 H E A T O B S  
 A P H W R N E  
 C O R B I T D

- Earth
- Sun
- Moon
- Star
- Heat
- Planets
- Humans
- Orbit



**FILL IN THE VOWELS**

Fill in the missing vowels in the sentences below.

1. The Sun has a very high t mp r t r .
2. The rb t of the Moon around the Earth takes 27 days.
3. The Milky Way is our s l r s st m .
4. Pl t is the planet farthest from the Sun.
5. rth is the third planet from the Sun.

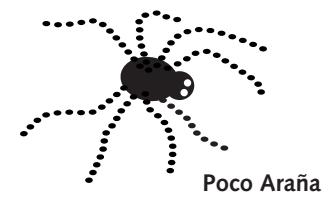
**MATCHING**

Draw a line from the scrambled letters in column A to the correctly spelled word in column B.

Example:



- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| A            | B            |
| AGS          | WATER        |
| ASTR         | GRAVITY      |
| AVRGYTI      | PLANET       |
| NALPTE       | GAS          |
| LARSO MYSTES | STAR         |
| RATWE        | SOLAR SYSTEM |



Poco Araña

**POCO ARAÑA'S WORD WIDE WEB**

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| <i>English</i> | <i>Spanish</i> |
| Earth          | la tierra      |
| Sun            | el sol         |
| star           | estrella       |
| solar system   | sistema solar  |
| heat           | calor          |
| planet         | planeto        |
| gas            | gas            |
| temperature    | temperatura    |

**GREENTIMES JR**

Earth in the Solar System  
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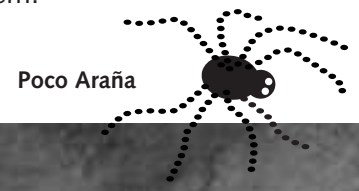
**GREENTIMES JR.**

WE TURN KIDS GREEN

THE SOLAR SYSTEM

**DEAR READER,**

Welcome to Earth, the 3rd planet from the Sun! I am Poco Araña, your happy guide through our solar system. When you look up at the sky at night, you are seeing **stars** that are millions upon millions of miles away. Sometimes you can even see the other **planets** in our solar system. Did you know that there are 9 planets including Earth that **orbit** around our Sun? Have you ever been to outer space? I haven't, but many animals have. Laika the Dog was the first animal in space. Other animals in space have been monkeys, rats, frogs, beetles, wasps, bees, newts, fish and even jellyfish. And yes, also humans. So, take a trip with me to learn about our solar system, our Sun, our planet Earth, and our moon. And who knows, maybe you'll be the next animal to explore our Solar System.



Poco Araña



**DEFINITIONS**

An **orbit** is the path a planet takes to travel around the Sun. It is also a verb that means to circle, or move around, an object.

A **solar system** is a star with a group of planets orbiting around it, such as the Sun and its 9 planets (including Earth).

A **star** is a huge mass of gas that releases enormous amounts of heat, light and energy. Stars can range in size from 500 times the size of our Sun to much smaller than New York City.

**Gravity** is the invisible force that pulls objects toward the center of our planet. All planets, stars, and moons have gravity. Gravity holds our solar system together.

**Planets** are masses, such as Earth, that orbit a star. Planets can be made of any number of materials including rock, metal, and gas.

## THE MOON

By Sanela Brekalo

Do you ever wonder how the Earth is different from the Moon? For starters there is no liquid water on the Moon, only ice. Another difference between the Earth and the Moon is that there is a lower amount of gravity on the Moon. Also, the wide range of temperatures on the Moon are so extreme that you would freeze in an instant or burn to a crisp.

If you walked from a point on one side of the Moon straight through the center to the other side you would have traveled 2,160 miles (the Moon's **diameter**). The distance from the Earth to the



Moon is 238,857 miles. To give you a better understanding of that distance imagine over four million continuous football fields.

It takes the Moon 27 days to **orbit** the Earth. Throughout a month the Moon changes its appearance in the sky. Sometimes it is round, and sometimes we see only a crescent (a small part or sliver) of it. This is because of the positions of the Sun, Moon and Earth.

Spacecrafts have been visiting the Moon since 1959. The first human on the Moon was Neil Armstrong on July 20, 1969. If Neil Armstrong weighed 150 pounds on Earth, on the Moon he would have only weighed 26 pounds because the Moon has weaker gravity than Earth.

## SOLAR SYSTEM

By Poco Araña

Our **solar system** is made up of 9 **planets** that **orbit** around the Sun. The Sun is in the center of our solar system, warming and giving light to all the planets, even those far, far away. The solar system is so big that traveling to the farthest planet would be like walking around Earth over 145,000 times.

The Earth is the 3rd planet from the Sun. It is 93 million miles from the Sun. That is over 3,700 walks around our planet.

The 9 planets in the Solar System are Mars, Venus, Earth, Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. Mercury is the closest to the Sun, and Pluto is

the farthest away. Earth is the only planet that supports life, though scientists continue to study other planets for evidence of the existence of other life forms.

Our solar system is a part of the **Milky Way** galaxy. The Milky Way is made up of over 200 billion other solar systems!

## OUR PLANET EARTH

By Emily Tran

What do you know about Earth besides the fact that we live on it? Do you know that the Earth was formed four and a half billion years ago? Do you know how it was formed? Do you know why there are 365 days in a year and 24 hours in a day? Well, I'm here to share these answers with you!

Earth began as a huge spinning cloud of dust and gas. As time went on, **gravity** helped that cloud of dust clump together to form the solid **planet** we all know as Earth! Earth **orbits** the Sun.



When I heard that there are 365 days in a year, I wondered why 365? Well, the reason is because it takes 365 days for the Earth to orbit the Sun. The Earth is also spinning on its own axis while orbiting the Sun. The Earth takes 24 hours to rotate or spin around its axis. That is how we measure a day.

So, four and a half billion years after the Earth formed, we have figured out how the Earth formed, what it is made of, and why there are 365 days in a year.

## THE SUN

By Haris Lefteri

The Sun is a **star**, just like all the other stars we can see at night. Stars are huge masses of hot, burning gas. The Sun is about 4.6 billion years old. It is the center of our solar system.

As Earth turns, the Sun appears to move across the sky. This is not because the Sun is moving. Earth is rotating, making it look as if the Sun moves from east to west in our sky.

For us, the Sun is beautiful and useful because it heats our planet and gives us light during the day. The Sun's importance is so great that Earth would not have life without it. We would freeze to death without its heat and energy. This energy warms our days and helps green plants absorb sunlight and convert it into food.

So, why can't we just go and live on the Sun? We can't because its temperature is too high for any living organism to exist there. Its surface is 16 times hotter than boiling water! Can you imagine that?

**DIAMETER:**  
The length of a straight line passing through the center of a sphere.

Although this diagram shows the relative sizes of the planets in our solar system, it can't show the relative distances between the planets. The reason? If Pluto was positioned accurately in relation to the sun, it would have to be over a mile away from this page!

