

Sheet 11A **Slips to be stuck on the class walls****MERCURY**

Mercury is the nearest planet to the Sun and it moves around it incredibly quickly – **88** days, which is the same as four complete journeys around the Sun every year. If people moved to Mercury, they would be **four** times older than their Earth age! It moves so quickly that it can only be seen from Earth **six** times a year.

VENUS

Venus is the closest planet to Earth and the **third** smallest in the Solar System. It is almost the same size and it is made up of the same type of metals and rocks as Earth; for these reasons, Venus is often said to be the Earth's "**twin** sister".

MARS

Mars takes nearly **two** years to orbit the Sun (**687** Earth days). What's more, a day on Mars is just a little longer than our own day, also having its own seasons. Mars has two tiny moons called **Deimos** and **Phobos**.

JUPITER

Jupiter is the Solar System's biggest planet. In fact, it is so big that more than **1,300** Earths would fit inside it. Jupiter spins on its axis once every **ten** hours. It spins faster than any other planet, so fast that the clouds in its atmosphere are huge swirling storms with strong winds of up **500** km/h.

Sheet 11B**SATURN**

Famous for its beautiful bright rings, Saturn is still known as the Ringed Planet. Saturn takes nearly **29** Earth years to orbit the Sun and the length of a day is over 10 Earth hours. Around **60** large moons orbit Saturn. One of them, Titan, is a true giant.

URANUS

After Jupiter and Saturn, this gas giant is the third-largest planet in our Solar System. Uranus is the seventh planet from the Sun and it takes **84** years to complete one orbit and **17** hours to complete a day. The planet has at least 21 moons (icy satellites), the biggest of which is Titania. It also has **11** rings, which are hardly perceptible.

EARTH

Our home planet is the largest of the four inner planets. Along with its satellite, the Moon, it moves around the Sun **once** a year. As the Earth moves around the Sun, different parts of the Earth get more or less light and warmth from the Sun, making the four different **seasons**.

NEPTUNE

Neptune orbits the Sun once every **165** years. In other words: its orbit is 30 times further from the Sun than Earth's. An example of this: on 29 May 2011 Neptune will have made just one circuit around the Sun since its discovery in **1846**. This gas giant is orbited by eight moons and **five** thin complete rings and one partial ring.