Name _____ Date _____

Environmental Conditions in Our Solar System

Use the data in the chart below to answer the questions on the worksheet Planet Investigation.

Planet	Temperatures (day and night)	Contents of Atmosphere	Wind Speed (miles per hour and meters per second)	Presence of Water or Ice	Moons
Mercury	Maximum: 800˚F Minimum: -279˚F	Very little	None	Yes, water was found by Messenger Mission in 2008	None
Venus	Maximum: 864˚F (varies little)	Carbon Dioxide, Nitrogen, clouds of acid	Surface: 4 mph (2 m/s) Top of clouds: 186 mph (83 m/s)	None	None
Earth	Maximum: 135˚F Minimum: -128 ˚F	Nitrogen, Oxygen, Argon	Highest recorded 230 mph (103 m/s)	Yes (also called the hydrosphere)	One
Mars	Maximum: 23˚F Minimum: -125˚F	Carbon Dioxide, Nitrogen, Argon	4-70 mph (2-31 m/s)	Polar ice	2 Moons: Phobos, Deimos
Jupiter	Mean: -238˚F	Hydrogen, Helium, Methane	Highly varied areas. Red Spot storm 385 mph (172 m/s)	May be some water vapor	63 Moons: Four largest are Io, Europa, Ganymede, Callisto
Saturn	Mean: -285˚F	Hydrogen, Helium, Methane	1100 mph (500 m/s)	Trace amounts on the planet; massive rings of ice and ice-covered particles	62 Moons, including Titan, Iapetus, Rhea, Dione, Tethys, Mimas, Enceladus, Hyperion
Uranus	Mean: -357˚F	Hydrogen, Helium, Methane	560 mph (250 m/s)	May be made up of mostly water	27 Moons: Largest are Oberon, Titania
Neptune	Mean: -353˚F	Hydrogen, Helium, Methane	Gusts over 1300 mph (500 m/s)	May have water in the mantle	13 Moons: Largest is Triton
Pluto (dwarf planet)	estimated to range -378˚F to -396˚F	Perhaps Methane, Nitrogen, Carbon Monoxide	Unknown	Unknown	3 Moons: Charon, Hydra, Nix

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