

Name _____ Date _____

Solar System Environments

Read the information in the chart below. Compare the planets. Use the information to answer the questions on the worksheet Planet Investigation.

Planet	Temperatures (maximum and minimum)	Wind speed, in miles per hour (mph)	Is there water or ice?	Moons	Is it gaseous or rocky?
Mercury	Maximum: 800°F Minimum: -279°F	None	Yes	None	Rocky
Venus	Maximum: 864°F (varies little)	4 mph	No	None	Rocky
Earth	Maximum: 135°F Minimum: -128 °F	Highest recorded: 230 mph	Yes, water and ice	One	Rocky
Mars	Maximum: 23°F Minimum: -125°F	4-70 mph	Polar ice	Two	Rocky
Jupiter	Mean: -238°F	385 mph (Red Spot storm)	Possibly some water vapor	63 Moons	Gaseous
Saturn	Mean: -285°F	1100 mph	Massive rings of ice and ice-covered particles	62 Moons	Gaseous
Uranus	Mean: -357°F	560 mph	May be made up of mostly water	27 Moons	Gaseous
Neptune	Mean: -353°F	Gusts over 1300 mph	May have water in the mantle	13 Moons	Gaseous
Pluto (dwarf planet)	Estimated to range -378°F to -396°F	Unknown	May have ice	3 Moons	Rocky and icy

© 2010 National Geographic Society