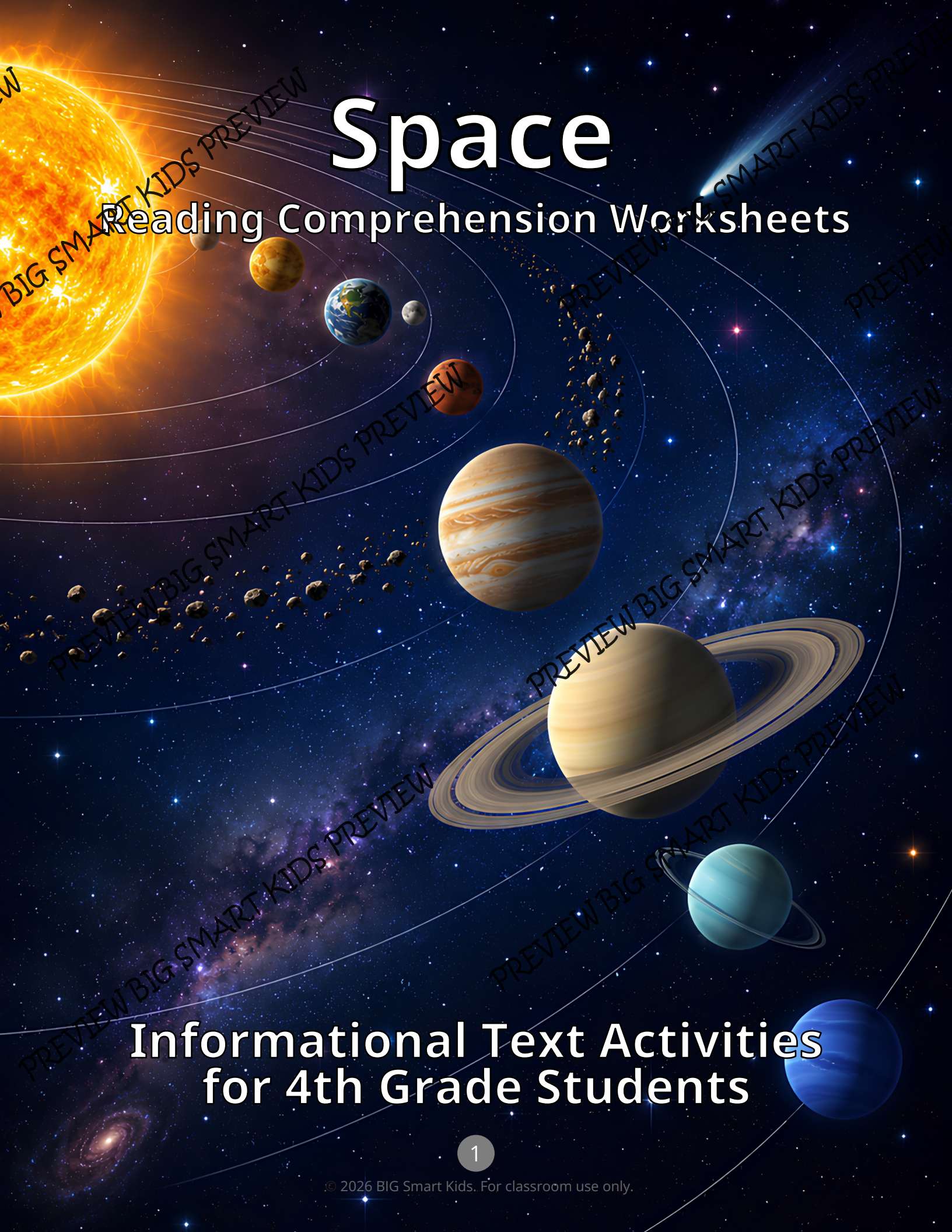

Space

Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Informational Text Activities for 4th Grade Students

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Passage 1: The Moon

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

The Moon is Earth's natural satellite and travels around our planet in space. It is much smaller than Earth and does not produce its own light. The Moon looks bright because sunlight reflects off its rocky surface. People can often see the Moon in the night sky, although it is sometimes visible during the day.

The Moon has many craters, mountains, and flat areas called maria. These craters formed long ago when rocks from space crashed into the Moon's surface. Unlike Earth, the Moon has almost no atmosphere, so wind and rain cannot change the surface very much over time.

The Moon also affects Earth in important ways. Its gravity helps create ocean tides by pulling on Earth's water. The Moon moves through different phases during the month, including the full moon, half moon, and crescent moon. People have studied the Moon for many years using telescopes, satellites, and space missions.

Astronauts first landed on the Moon in 1969 during the Apollo 11 mission. Scientists continue studying the Moon to learn more about space and the history of our solar system. Learning about the Moon helps people better understand Earth and outer space.

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Questions | Passage 1: The Moon

Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
A. The Moon produces light during the night
B. The Moon changes shape every day
C. The Moon is larger than Earth
D. The Moon is an important object in space

2. Why does the Moon appear bright in the sky?
A. Sunlight reflects from its surface
B. The Moon produces its own light
C. Heat inside the Moon glows brightly
D. Stars shine directly onto the Moon

3. What formed many craters on the Moon?
A. Strong winds across the surface
B. Large ocean waves and storms
C. Rocks from space hitting the Moon
D. Volcanoes beneath the Moon's crust

4. Why do scientists continue studying the Moon?
A. To build cities on the Moon
B. To stop asteroids near Earth
C. To change the Moon's gravity
D. To learn more about space history

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why does the Moon's surface change very slowly over time?

_____

_____

6. Describe one way the Moon affects Earth.

_____

_____

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains why the Moon is important.

Part 4: Writing

8. Would you want to visit the Moon someday? Explain why or why not.

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Answer Key - Passage 1: The Moon

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. D
2. A
3. C
4. D

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:
The Moon has almost no atmosphere, so wind and rain do not change the surface.

6. Sample Answer:
The Moon's gravity helps create ocean tides on Earth.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:
The passage says the Moon affects Earth's tides and helps scientists study space.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

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Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
The Moon

Grade Level:
4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:
Students learn about the Moon, lunar features, gravity, and space exploration.

Skills Covered:
- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading
- Written Response

Teaching Tips:
- Discuss why the Moon appears bright in the night sky.
- Ask students to explain how craters formed on the Moon.
- Encourage students to identify ways the Moon affects Earth.

Suggested Uses:
- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:
RI.4.1
RI.4.2
RI.4.3
W.4.2
W.4.8

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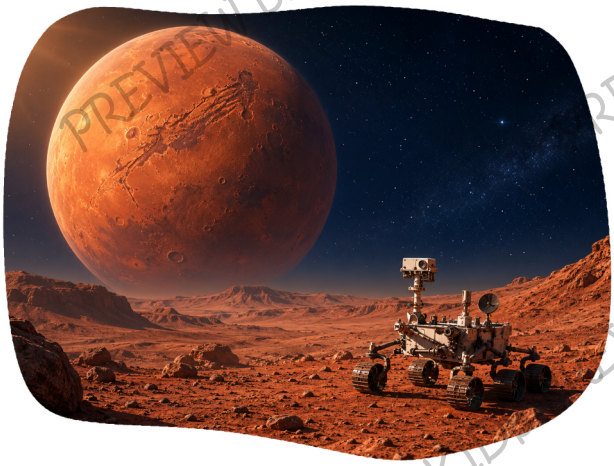
Passage 2: Mars

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.



Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun and is often called the Red Planet. Its surface looks reddish because the soil contains iron minerals that look like rust. Mars is smaller than Earth, but it has mountains, valleys, plains, and dry river channels that show water may have flowed there long ago.

Mars has a thin atmosphere made mostly of carbon dioxide. Because the atmosphere is so thin, Mars is much colder than Earth and cannot hold heat well. Dust storms can also cover large parts of the planet. Some storms are small, while others can spread across wide areas.

Scientists study Mars because it may help them understand whether life could have existed on another planet. Rovers, orbiters, and landers collect information about rocks, weather, and the surface. These tools send data back to Earth so scientists can learn more about the planet.

Mars is also important for future space exploration. Scientists and engineers continue studying how astronauts might one day travel to Mars. Learning about Mars helps people better understand planets, space technology, and the history of our solar system.

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Questions | Passage 2: Mars

Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

A. Mars is hotter than Earth
B. Mars is a planet scientists study
C. Mars has no surface features
D. Mars is the closest planet to Earth

2. Why is Mars called the Red Planet?

A. Its soil has rusty iron minerals
B. Its surface is covered with fire
C. Its clouds shine red at night
D. Its rocks produce bright light

3. What makes Mars colder than Earth?

A. Mars has many large valleys
B. Mars has dry river channels
C. Mars has a very thin atmosphere
D. Mars has dust storms each year

4. Why do scientists use rovers and orbiters?

A. To build cities on Mars
B. To change the planet's weather
C. To move Mars closer to Earth
D. To collect data about Mars

Part 2: Short Answer

5. What evidence suggests water may have flowed on Mars long ago?

_____

_____

6. Describe one reason scientists are interested in studying Mars.

_____

_____

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains why Mars is different from Earth.

Part 4: Writing

8. Do you think humans should travel to Mars in the future? Explain your answer.

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Answer Key - Passage 2: Mars

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. D

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:
Dry river channels suggest that water may have flowed on Mars long ago.

6. Sample Answer:
Scientists study Mars to learn if life could have existed on another planet.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:
The passage says Mars has a thin atmosphere and is much colder than Earth.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

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Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
Mars

Grade Level:
4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:
Students learn about Mars, its surface features, atmosphere, and why scientists study the planet.

Skills Covered:
- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading
- Written Response

Teaching Tips:
- Discuss why Mars is called the Red Planet.
- Ask students to identify evidence that water may have existed on Mars.
- Encourage students to explain why rovers and orbiters are useful.

Suggested Uses:
- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:
RI.4.1
RI.4.2
RI.4.3
W.4.2
W.4.8

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Passage 3: Black Holes

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Black holes are mysterious objects found in space. They form when very large stars collapse after running out of energy.
A black hole has such strong gravity that almost nothing can escape from it, not even light. Because black holes do not produce light, scientists cannot see them directly with normal telescopes.

Scientists study black holes by observing how nearby stars, gas, and dust move around them. Some black holes pull in material from space, creating bright glowing areas around the edges. These glowing areas help scientists detect black holes from far away.

Black holes can be different sizes. Some are only a few times larger than the Sun, while others are called supermassive black holes and are found at the centers of galaxies. Scientists believe nearly every large galaxy may contain a supermassive black hole.

Although black holes sound dangerous, they are usually very far away from Earth. Scientists continue studying black holes to better understand gravity, stars, and how the universe works. Learning about black holes helps people explore important questions about space and the universe.

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Questions | Passage 3: Black Holes

Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

A. Black holes are made from frozen planets
B. Black holes only exist near Earth
C. Black holes are powerful objects in space
D. Black holes produce bright light naturally

2. Why can't scientists see black holes directly?

A. Black holes do not produce light
B. Black holes move too quickly
C. Black holes stay behind planets
D. Black holes hide inside galaxies

3. How do scientists detect black holes?

A. By observing nearby stars and gas
B. By landing spacecraft on them
C. By measuring ocean tides on Earth
D. By collecting rocks from space

4. Why do scientists continue studying black holes?

A. To stop black holes near Earth
B. To build stations inside galaxies
C. To create new sources of energy
D. To better understand the universe

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why is gravity important in a black hole?

_____

_____

6. Describe one way scientists learn about black holes.

_____

_____

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains why black holes are difficult to study.

Part 4: Writing

8. What is the most interesting thing you learned about black holes? Explain why.

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Answer Key - Passage 3: Black Holes

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. C
2. A
3. A
4. D

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:
A black hole's gravity is so strong that even light cannot escape.

6. Sample Answer:
Scientists study how stars, gas, and dust move around black holes.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:
The passage says black holes cannot be seen directly because they do not produce light.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

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Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
Black Holes

Grade Level:
4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:
Students learn about black holes, gravity, galaxies, and space science.

Skills Covered:
- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading
- Written Response

Teaching Tips:
- Discuss why black holes cannot be seen directly.
- Ask students to explain how gravity works in black holes.
- Encourage students to identify ways scientists study space objects.

Suggested Uses:
- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:
RI.4.1
RI.4.2
RI.4.3
W.4.2
W.4.8

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Passage 4: Space Stations

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Space stations are large structures that orbit Earth in space. Astronauts live and work inside them for weeks or even months at a time. Space stations allow scientists to study space, gravity, weather, and the effects of living far from Earth.

Inside a space station, astronauts perform experiments and use special tools to collect information. Because there is very little gravity, astronauts float as they move through the station. Simple tasks such as eating, sleeping, and exercising are different in space than on Earth.

Space stations also help scientists test technology for future space missions. Astronauts learn how equipment works in space and how humans can stay healthy during long missions. Supplies such as food, water, and equipment are delivered by spacecraft from Earth.

The International Space Station, often called the ISS, is one of the most famous space stations. It travels around Earth many times each day. Scientists from different countries work together on the ISS to explore space and learn more about our universe.

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Questions | Passage 4: Space Stations

Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

A. Space stations help astronauts study space
B. Space stations travel farther than planets
C. Space stations produce energy from stars
D. Space stations control weather on Earth

2. Why do astronauts float inside space stations?

A. Space stations move very quickly
B. Astronauts wear heavy space suits
C. There is very little gravity in space
D. Strong winds push astronauts upward

3. Why are supplies sent to space stations?

A. To repair damaged planets
B. To create new stars in space
C. To move astronauts between planets
D. To provide food and equipment

4. Why do scientists use space stations?

A. To change Earth's atmosphere
B. To build homes on the Moon
C. To study space and test technology
D. To stop storms in outer space

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Describe one activity astronauts do inside a space station.

_____

_____

6. Why is the International Space Station important?

_____

_____

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains why space stations are useful.

Part 4: Writing

8. What do you think would be the hardest part about living on a space station?

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Answer Key - Passage 4: Space Stations

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. A
2. C
3. D
4. C

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:
Astronauts perform experiments and collect information inside the station.

6. Sample Answer:
The ISS helps scientists study space and work together on research.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:
The passage says space stations help scientists study gravity and test technology.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

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Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
Space Stations

Grade Level:
4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:
Students learn about space stations, astronaut life, and scientific research in space.

Skills Covered:
- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading
- Written Response

Teaching Tips:
- Discuss how astronauts live differently in space.
- Ask students to explain why gravity feels different on a space station.
- Encourage students to identify why space research is important.

Suggested Uses:
- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:
RI.4.1
RI.4.2
RI.4.3
W.4.2
W.4.8

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Passage 5: Asteroids

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Asteroids are rocky objects that travel through space. Most asteroids are found in the asteroid belt, a large area located between Mars and Jupiter. Some asteroids are very small, while others are hundreds of miles wide. Scientists believe many asteroids are leftover pieces from the early solar system.

Asteroids move around the Sun in paths called orbits. Unlike planets, most asteroids are irregular in shape and do not have enough gravity to become round. Their surfaces are often covered with rock, dust, and craters from space collisions.

Scientists study asteroids to learn more about how planets formed long ago. Spacecraft have visited several asteroids to collect images and information. Some asteroids contain metals and minerals that may help scientists understand the materials found in space.

Although most asteroids stay far from Earth, scientists carefully track those that travel closer to our planet. Learning about asteroids helps scientists improve space research and better understand our solar system.

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Questions | Passage 5: Asteroids

Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

A. Asteroids produce light in space
B. Asteroids are larger than planets
C. Asteroids stay close to the Moon
D. Asteroids are rocky objects in space

2. Where are most asteroids found?

A. Near the Sun's outer surface
B. Deep inside large galaxies
C. In the asteroid belt near Mars
D. Around Earth's atmosphere

3. Why are many asteroids irregular in shape?

A. They do not have strong gravity
B. They are made completely of ice
C. They travel faster than planets
D. They produce heat from space

4. Why do scientists study asteroids?

A. To stop the Sun from changing
B. To learn about the solar system
C. To create weather on planets
D. To move planets through space

Part 2: Short Answer

5. What are some asteroid surfaces covered with?

_____

_____

6. Why do scientists track asteroids near Earth?

_____

_____

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains why asteroids are important to study.

Part 4: Writing

8. Why do you think scientists should continue studying asteroids?

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Answer Key - Passage 5: Asteroids

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. D
2. C
3. A
4. B

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:
Asteroid surfaces are often covered with rock, dust, and craters.

6. Sample Answer:
Scientists track asteroids near Earth to study objects that travel close to our planet.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:
The passage says scientists study asteroids to learn how planets formed long ago.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

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Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
Asteroids

Grade Level:
4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:
Students learn about asteroids, orbits, and the early solar system.

Skills Covered:
- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading
- Written Response

Teaching Tips:
- Discuss where most asteroids are located.
- Ask students to explain why asteroids are irregular in shape.
- Encourage students to identify why scientists track asteroids.

Suggested Uses:
- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:
RI.4.1
RI.4.2
RI.4.3
W.4.2
W.4.8

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Passage 6: Comets

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Comets are icy objects that travel through space around the Sun. They are often called “dirty snowballs” because they are made of ice, dust, rock, and frozen gases. Most comets come from cold outer areas of the solar system far beyond the planets.

As a comet moves closer to the Sun, heat causes some of its ice to turn into gas. This creates a glowing cloud around the comet called a coma. Many comets also develop long glowing tails that stretch through space. The tails always point away from the Sun because of solar wind and sunlight.

Comets move in long paths called orbits. Some comets return regularly after many years, while others may only pass through the inner solar system once. Scientists study comets to learn about the early solar system because comets contain very old materials from long ago.

People have observed comets for thousands of years. Today, telescopes and spacecraft help scientists collect information about these icy space objects. Learning about comets helps scientists better understand space, planets, and the history of our solar system.

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Questions | Passage 6: Comets

Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
A. Comets produce heat from space
B. Comets travel faster than planets
C. Comets stay near Earth each year
D. Comets are icy objects in space

2. Why do comets develop glowing tails?
A. Frozen rocks reflect moonlight
B. Strong gravity pulls the tail outward
C. Stars shine directly on the comet
D. Heat from the Sun changes the ice

3. Why do scientists study comets?
A. To stop storms near planets
B. To create energy from sunlight
C. To learn about the early solar system
D. To move spacecraft through space

4. What are comets sometimes called?
A. dirty snowballs
B. frozen space storms
C. glowing space clouds
D. rocky space planets

Part 2: Short Answer

5. What happens when a comet moves closer to the Sun?

_____

_____

6. Describe one way scientists study comets today.

_____

_____

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains why comets are important to study.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Part 4: Writing

8. What do you think is the most interesting fact about comets? Explain your answer.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Answer Key - Passage 6: Comets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. D
2. D
3. C
4. A

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:
Heat from the Sun causes some ice on the comet to turn into gas.

6. Sample Answer:
Scientists use telescopes and spacecraft to study comets.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:
The passage says comets contain very old materials from the early solar system.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

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Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
Comets

Grade Level:
4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:
Students learn about comets, glowing tails, and the early solar system.

Skills Covered:
- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading
- Written Response

Teaching Tips:
- Discuss why comets develop glowing tails near the Sun.
- Ask students to explain why comets are called dirty snowballs.
- Encourage students to identify how scientists study space objects.

Suggested Uses:
- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:
RI.4.1
RI.4.2
RI.4.3
W.4.2
W.4.8

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Passage 7: Astronaut Training

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Astronauts must complete many years of training before traveling into space. They learn about science, technology, engineering, and space equipment. Astronauts also practice solving problems quickly and working closely with other team members during missions.

Training often includes physical exercise and practice in special environments. Some astronauts train underwater to prepare for working in space because floating underwater can feel similar to moving in low gravity. Astronauts also practice using space suits, repairing equipment, and responding to emergencies.

Space travel can affect the human body in many ways. Living in low gravity may weaken muscles and bones over time. To stay healthy, astronauts exercise regularly and follow careful schedules while training and during space missions.

Astronauts must also stay calm and focused during difficult situations. Scientists and engineers continue improving astronaut training to help people prepare for future missions to the Moon, Mars, and beyond. Learning about astronaut training helps people understand the challenges of space exploration.

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Questions | Passage 7: Astronaut Training

Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

A. Astronauts complete special training for space
B. Astronauts live on the Moon permanently
C. Astronauts repair planets in space
D. Astronauts study weather near Earth

2. Why do some astronauts train underwater?

A. To study ocean animals closely
B. To practice moving in low gravity
C. To collect rocks from underwater caves
D. To prepare for storms on Earth

3. Why do astronauts exercise during training?

A. To keep muscles and bones strong
B. To improve weather in space
C. To build larger space stations
D. To travel faster through space

4. Why must astronauts stay calm during missions?

A. To improve sunlight in space
B. To change gravity near Earth
C. To handle difficult situations safely
D. To move planets around the Sun

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Describe one skill astronauts practice during training.

_____

_____

6. Why is astronaut training important before space missions?

_____

_____

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains how astronauts prepare for space travel.

Part 4: Writing

8. Do you think astronaut training sounds difficult? Explain why or why not.

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Answer Key - Passage 7: Astronaut Training

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. A
2. B
3. A
4. C

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:
Astronauts practice using space suits and repairing equipment.

6. Sample Answer:
Training helps astronauts prepare for challenges in space.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:
The passage says astronauts train underwater and practice emergencies.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

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Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
Astronaut Training

Grade Level:
4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:
Students learn about astronaut training, low gravity, and space mission preparation.

Skills Covered:
- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading
- Written Response

Teaching Tips:
- Discuss why astronauts must train before space missions.
- Ask students to explain how low gravity affects the body.
- Encourage students to identify skills astronauts need in space.

Suggested Uses:
- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:
RI.4.1
RI.4.2
RI.4.3
W.4.2
W.4.8

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Passage 8: The Sun

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

The Sun is a large star located at the center of our solar system. It provides the heat and light needed for life on Earth. The Sun is much larger than Earth and is made mostly of hot gases such as hydrogen and helium. Powerful energy is produced deep inside the Sun.

The Sun's gravity keeps planets moving around it in paths called orbits. Without the Sun, Earth would be extremely cold and dark. Plants use sunlight to make food, and animals depend on plants and sunlight to survive.

The surface of the Sun is very hot and active. Scientists sometimes observe dark areas called sunspots and large bursts of energy called solar flares. These solar flares can affect satellites, communication systems, and space technology near Earth.

Scientists study the Sun using telescopes and spacecraft. Learning about the Sun helps scientists better understand stars, weather in space, and how the solar system works. The Sun is one of the most important objects in our universe.

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Questions | Passage 8: The Sun

Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

A. The Sun is smaller than Earth
B. The Sun produces cold temperatures
C. The Sun moves around the planets
D. The Sun is an important star

2. Why is the Sun important for life on Earth?

A. It creates ocean waves daily
B. It provides heat and light
C. It controls storms on Earth
D. It moves planets through space

3. Why do planets stay in orbit around the Sun?

A. Strong winds move the planets
B. The Sun's gravity pulls them
C. The Moon controls the planets
D. Bright sunlight pushes them

4. What are solar flares?

A. large bursts of energy
B. frozen storms on the Sun
C. rocky areas near the surface
D. layers of gases around stars

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Describe one way sunlight helps living things on Earth.

_____

_____

6. Why do scientists study the Sun?

_____

_____

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains why the Sun is important.

Part 4: Writing

8. What do you think would happen if Earth did not have the Sun?

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Answer Key - Passage 8: The Sun

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. D
2. B
3. B
4. A

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:
Plants use sunlight to make food and grow.

6. Sample Answer:
Scientists study the Sun to understand stars and space weather.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:
The passage says the Sun provides heat and light needed for life.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

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Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
The Sun

Grade Level:
4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:
Students learn about the Sun, gravity, solar flares, and the solar system.

Skills Covered:
- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading
- Written Response

Teaching Tips:
- Discuss why the Sun is important for life on Earth.
- Ask students to explain how gravity keeps planets in orbit.
- Encourage students to identify how scientists study stars.

Suggested Uses:
- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:
RI.4.1
RI.4.2
RI.4.3
W.4.2
W.4.8

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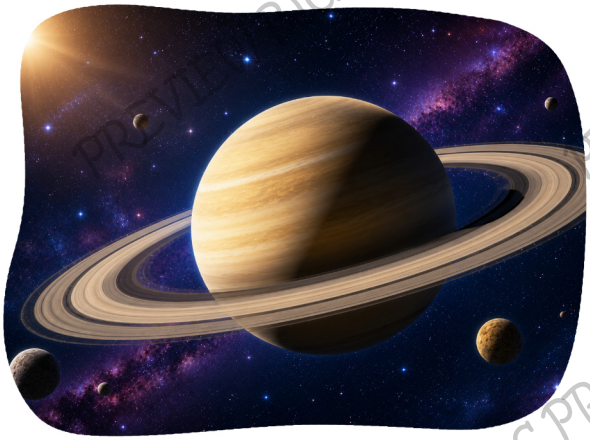
Passage 9: Saturn

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.



Saturn is the sixth planet from the Sun and is known for its large ring system. The rings are made mostly of ice, rock, and dust particles that orbit the planet. Saturn is one of the largest planets in the solar system and is much bigger than Earth.

Saturn is a gas giant, which means it is made mostly of gases instead of solid rock. Strong winds move through Saturn's atmosphere, creating storms and colorful cloud bands. Scientists believe Saturn may have a small rocky center deep inside the planet.

Saturn has many moons orbiting around it. One of the most famous moons is Titan, which has a thick atmosphere and lakes made of liquid methane. Scientists study Saturn and its moons to learn more about planets and space environments.

Spacecraft and telescopes have helped scientists collect detailed images and information about Saturn. Learning about Saturn helps scientists better understand gas giants, planetary systems, and the solar system as a whole.

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Questions | Passage 9: Saturn

Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

A. Saturn has fewer moons than Earth
B. Saturn is the smallest planet
C. Saturn is a large gas giant planet
D. Saturn produces light like the Sun

2. What are Saturn's rings mostly made of?

A. hot gases and bright flames
B. clouds and frozen storms
C. large pieces of solid metal
D. ice, rock, and dust particles

3. Why do scientists study Saturn and its moons?

A. To stop storms near planets
B. To move spacecraft through space
C. To learn about planetary systems
D. To create energy from sunlight

4. What is Titan?

A. a storm inside Saturn
B. one of Saturn's moons
C. a ring made of ice
D. a spacecraft near Saturn

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why is Saturn called a gas giant?

_____

_____

6. Describe one feature of Saturn's moon Titan.

_____

_____

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains why Saturn is unique.

Part 4: Writing

8. Would you like to visit Saturn or one of its moons someday? Explain why or why not.

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Answer Key - Passage 9: Saturn

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. C
2. D
3. C
4. B

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:
Saturn is called a gas giant because it is made mostly of gases.

6. Sample Answer:
Titan has a thick atmosphere and lakes of liquid methane.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:
The passage says Saturn has a large ring system made of ice and rock.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

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Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
Saturn

Grade Level:
4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:
Students learn about Saturn, gas giants, planetary rings, and moons.

Skills Covered:
- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading
- Written Response

Teaching Tips:
- Discuss why Saturn's rings are important features.
- Ask students to explain what makes Saturn a gas giant.
- Encourage students to identify interesting facts about Titan.

Suggested Uses:
- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:
RI.4.1
RI.4.2
RI.4.3
W.4.2
W.4.8

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Passage 10: Telescopes

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Telescopes are tools that help scientists observe objects far away in space. They collect light and make distant planets, stars, and galaxies appear larger and clearer. Some telescopes are located on Earth, while others travel in space aboard satellites.

Early telescopes helped people discover moons, planets, and stars that could not be seen clearly with the human eye alone. Modern telescopes use advanced technology to collect detailed images and information from deep space. Some telescopes can even detect invisible forms of light, such as infrared and ultraviolet light.

Space telescopes are especially useful because they can observe space without Earth's atmosphere blocking the view. Telescopes help scientists study black holes, distant galaxies, planets, and other space objects. They also help scientists learn how stars form and how the universe changes over time.

Scientists continue building stronger and more powerful telescopes to explore space more deeply. Learning about telescopes helps people understand how scientists study the universe and discover new information about space.

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Questions | Passage 10: Telescopes

Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

A. Telescopes create light in space
B. Telescopes help scientists study space
C. Telescopes move planets through space
D. Telescopes control weather on Earth

2. Why are telescopes important?

A. They stop storms near planets
B. They create stars in space
C. They make distant objects clearer
D. They move satellites around Earth

3. Why are space telescopes useful?

A. Earth's atmosphere does not block them
B. Space telescopes produce their own light
C. Space telescopes stay closer to planets
D. Earth's gravity makes them stronger

4. Why do scientists build stronger telescopes?

A. To change the solar system
B. To create energy from stars
C. To stop black holes in space
D. To explore space more deeply

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Describe one thing telescopes help scientists study.

_____

_____

6. Why can space telescopes sometimes see space more clearly?

_____

_____

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Name: ..... Date: .....

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains why telescopes are important.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Part 4: Writing

8. How do telescopes help people learn more about space?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Answer Key - Passage 10: Telescopes

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. D

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:
Telescopes help scientists study stars, planets, and galaxies.

6. Sample Answer:
Space telescopes can observe space without Earth's atmosphere blocking the view.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:
The passage says telescopes make distant objects appear larger and clearer.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

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Space Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
Telescopes

Grade Level:
4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:
Students learn about telescopes, space observation, and scientific discovery.

Skills Covered:
- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading
- Written Response

Teaching Tips:
- Discuss how telescopes help scientists study space.
- Ask students to explain why space telescopes are useful.
- Encourage students to identify discoveries made using telescopes.

Suggested Uses:
- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:
RI.4.1
RI.4.2
RI.4.3
W.4.2
W.4.8

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