

Classifying the Planets Worksheet

Using the websites you have been given, complete the two tables.

- **ROCKY** - (made of rocks; definite surface); **GAS** - (made of gas; no definite surface).
- **GIANT** - (diameter greater than Earth's); **SMALL** - (diameter smaller than Earth's). Note: Earth is 7,900 miles (12,700 kilometers) in diameter.

<i>Planet</i>	<i>Rocky/ Gas Giant</i>	<i>Giant/ Small</i>
<i>Mercury</i>		
<i>Venus</i>		
<i>Mars</i>		
<i>Jupiter</i>		
<i>Saturn</i>		
<i>Uranus</i>		
<i>Neptune</i>		

<i>Dwarf Planet</i>	<i>Composition (what is it made of?)</i>	<i>Diameter (km)</i>	<i>Distance from Sun</i>	<i>Length of Year</i>	<i>Number of Moons</i>
<i>Pluto</i>					
<i>Ceres</i>					
<i>Eris</i>					

Using "The Planets & Dwarf Planets" website, answer the following questions:

Pluto

What is so unusual about Pluto's moon Charon?

Write the "Did you Know" for Pluto.

Ceres

If Ceres were to suddenly depart the asteroid belt, by what percentage would the mass of the belt be decreased?

Write the "Did you Know" for Ceres.

Eris

Why is Eris not considered the tenth planet in our solar system?

Write the "Did you Know" for Eris.

Using the websites you have been given, answer the following questions:

1. What is an asteroid?

2. Where are the asteroids found?

3. What is a comet?

4. Where do comets come from?

5. Identify the parts of a comet.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

6. What is a meteor?

7. What is the difference between a meteor, meteorite, and meteoroid?
 - a. Meteor -
 - b. Meteorite -
 - c. Meteoroid -

8. What is the Kuiper Belt?

9. List the two dwarf planets that are part of the Kuiper Belt.
 - a.
 - b.