



Grade 8



Earth and Space Science
Earth and Space

Additional FCAT Practice Questions

Directions: Select the best answer for each of the following questions

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1. Although they are very nearly the same size, the surface of Venus and Earth are very different. Which of the following is one of the main differences between the surface of Venus, and the surface of Earth?
 - A. the surface of Venus is much hotter
 - B. there is no atmosphere on Venus
 - C. the surface of Venus is not solid
 - D. the surface of Venus is entirely covered in water

 2. Why would it be impossible to land a space probe on the surface of Jupiter?
 - A. the surface of Jupiter is too hot to land a probe there
 - B. the surface of Jupiter is liquid, the probe would sink
 - C. the winds of Jupiter would blow the probe out into space
 - D. the surface of Jupiter is made of gas, there is no solid surface to land on

 3. Finding the planet Mars is easy, even without a telescope. Mars appears to have a reddish color. Why does Mars have a reddish color when seen in the night sky?
 - A. the planet is very hot, and glows
 - B. the minerals in the soil on the surface of Mars are red
 - C. the planet is reflecting sunlight

D. minerals in the ice that covers Mars reflects red light

4. Why does Mercury have a very high temperature on its surface?

A. Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun and is heated by the Sun's radiation

B. Mercury has a thick atmosphere that traps the Sun's heat

C. Mercury gives off more heat than it receives from the Sun

D. Mercury is squeezed by the Sun's gravity, causing it to heat up

5. The inner planets are closer to the Sun than outer planets. The closest planet to the Sun is Mercury. The surface of Venus is slightly hotter than the surface of Mercury, even though Mercury is the closest planet. Why is the surface of Venus hotter than Mercury?

A. Mercury rotates faster than Venus, cooling the surface

B. the Sun's rays hit Venus more directly than Mercury

C. the atmosphere of Venus traps the Sun's heat like a hot house

D. the ice at the north and south poles of Mercury cool the surface temperature a little

Answers

1. A

2. D

3. B

4. A

5. C