



Name: _____

Venus: The Hottest Planet

Venus is one of the eight planets in our solar system, and it's very close to Earth! Venus is the second planet from the Sun, sitting between Mercury and Earth. It is often called Earth's "sister planet" because it's almost the same size as Earth, but Venus is a very different and mysterious world!

Venus is the hottest planet in our solar system, even though it isn't the closest planet to the Sun. The reason it's so hot is because of its thick atmosphere, which is made mostly of carbon dioxide gas. This atmosphere acts like a blanket that traps heat from the Sun, making the surface of Venus hotter than an oven—over 850 degrees Fahrenheit! It's so hot that metals like lead would melt on the surface.

If you looked at Venus through a telescope, you wouldn't see its surface. That's because Venus is covered in thick, yellowish clouds that swirl around the planet.

These clouds are made of poisonous sulfuric acid, which is dangerous to humans. The clouds also reflect sunlight, which is why Venus looks so bright in the sky.

A day on Venus is very different from a day on Earth. While Earth takes 24 hours to complete one rotation, Venus takes about 243 Earth days to rotate just once! This means that one day on Venus is longer than a whole year on Venus, which takes only 225 Earth days to orbit the Sun.

Venus is a tough place for spacecraft because of its extreme heat and thick clouds. However, scientists have sent special robots, called probes, to explore Venus. These probes send pictures and data back to Earth to help us learn more about this unusual planet. Scientists are curious to learn even more about Venus to understand how planets like it work.

Sometimes, you can spot Venus in the sky just before sunrise or right after sunset. It's so bright that it's often called the "Evening Star" or "Morning Star," even though it's really a planet, not a star.



Artist drawing of Venus



Name: _____

Fun Facts About Venus

Venus is the only planet that rotates backward compared to most planets.

If you stood on Venus, the Sun would rise in the west and set in the east!

Venus is named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty.

Venus is a fascinating planet full of mysteries, and scientists are excited to learn more about it!

1. Why is Venus so hot? _____

2. Why does Venus look so bright in the night sky _____

3. Compare a day on Venus with a day on Earth. _____
