



Assessment Date: ____/____/____ Student: _____ Examiner: _____
Words Read Correctly (WRC): _____ Errors: _____ Notes: _____

## The Solar System

### Mr J and Miss Mac

The Solar System is made up of all the planets that orbit our Sun. In addition to planets, the Solar System also consists of moons, comets, asteroids, minor planets, and dust and gas.	17 28 33
Everything in the Solar System orbits or revolves around the Sun. The Sun contains around 98% of all the material in the Solar System. The larger an object is, the more gravity it has. Because the Sun is so large, its powerful gravity attracts all the other objects in the Solar System towards it. At the same time, these objects, which are moving very rapidly, try to fly away from the Sun, outward into the emptiness of outer space. The result of the planets trying to fly away, at the same time that the Sun is trying to pull them inward is that they become trapped half-way in between. Balanced between flying towards the Sun, and escaping into space, they spend eternity orbiting around this parent star.	46 60 75 90 105 120 137 148 160 161
Ever since the discovery of Pluto in 1930, kids grew up learning about the nine planets of our solar system. That all changed starting in the late 1990s, when astronomers began to argue about whether Pluto was a planet. A decision was made by astronomers in 2006 to call Pluto a “dwarf planet,” reducing the list of “real planets” in our solar system to eight. Often, we still learn about the order of all nine planets.	176 190 203 219 234 238
The order of the planets starting nearest to the sun and expanding outward through the solar system are: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and then Pluto. A good way to remember the letters in order is by saying: My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas.	251 262 276 288



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