



Name: _____ #: _____

Date: _____

Section: _____ HR: _____

Chapter 2 Section 3 Study Guide: The Inner Planets

The four inner planets are called the _____ planets.

This name comes from the latin word "_____ " meaning _____.

The names of these planets are _____, _____,
_____, & _____.

Guide For Reading

What are the main characteristics of the inner planets?

Earth

What three gases primarily make up Earth's atmosphere?

Earth is made up of _____ % water.

Figure 11 Interpreting Diagrams

What are Earth's three main layers?

How do scientists use Earth to learn about other planets? (Give an example)

Mercury

Mercury's interior is mainly made up of dense metals, _____ and _____.

Why can't people on Earth get a good view of Mercury?

The space probe named _____ was launched in _____ and only photographed _____ of Mercury's surface.

What did this space probe discover about the surface of Mercury?

Mercury has an extremely _____ atmosphere.

Why is Mercury considered to be a planet of extremes?

Checkpoint (page 64)

Why is it difficult for astronomers to learn about Mercury?

Venus

Venus is often called the _____ because it rises before the sun.

Why is Venus often referred to as Earth's twin?

Why is Venus' day longer than its year?

retrograde rotation: _____

Describe the hypothesis astronomers use to explain Venus' retrograde rotation.

Venus' _____ atmosphere prevents Venus from ever having a sunny day.

Why can you not breath on Venus?

greenhouse effect: _____

Checkpoint (page 67)

Why is the surface of Venus so hot?

Mars

Why is Mars called the "Red" planet?

The atmosphere of Mars is mostly _____.

Mars has a _____ at its North Pole.

The ice cap on Mars' north pole is not water, but rather _____.

Why does Mars have seasons? How do they vary?

What geological feature that is found on Earth can be also found on the surface of Mars?

Mars has two small moons, _____ and _____ that are covered with craters.