



## Comprehension: The Solar System

Read the following, and then answer the questions that follow:

### Interesting facts about the Earth

The Earth has a round shape called a sphere. An imaginary line, called the Equator, divides the Earth into two hemispheres, a Northern hemisphere and a Southern hemisphere.

Go to page 4 to see a map of the World

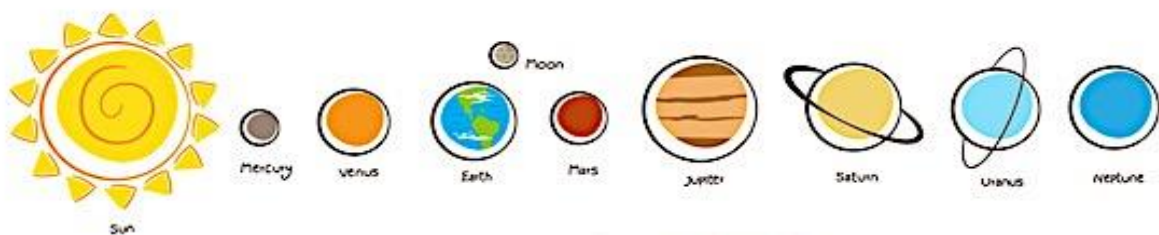
There are seven continents on Earth. The continents are Antarctica, South America, North America, Europe, Asia, Australia and Africa. Millions of years ago, all the continents on the Earth used to be one big continent, called Pangea.

Seventy-one percent of the Earth's surface is covered in water. The four biggest oceans are the Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean and Arctic Ocean.

The solar system is a collection of planets and their moons that orbit around the Sun.

There are eight planets in the solar system. Pluto used to be a planet, but its status has now been changed from planet to dwarf planet.

Earth is the third planet from the Sun. It was formed around four billion years ago and is the only planet where life has been possible.



### Vocabulary Builder

sphere	– a solid round figure
imaginary	– not real, does not really exist
hemisphere	– a half of the Earth (northern or southern, eastern or western)
continent	– a large mass of land on Earth
percent	– a number stated as part of 100. 71% is 71 out of 100
collection	– group
orbit	– going around something in a specific path

**Comprehension:****Question 1:** Answer the following questions:

1.1 What is the line called that divides the Earth into two hemispheres? (1)

---

---

1.2 Why is it called an 'imaginary line'? (2)

---

---

1.3 How many continents were there millions of years ago and what was it called? (2)

---

---

1.4 How many continents are there today? (1)

---

1.5 Underline the names that don't fit in this list of the continents: (2)

Australia	America	Europe	India	Africa
Greenland	Antarctica	North America	South America	Asia

1.6 How much of the Earth is covered in water? (1)

---

---

1.7 Name the four biggest oceans on Earth. (4)

---

---

1.8 How many planets are there? (1)

---

1.9 Why is Pluto no longer called a planet? (2)

---

---

1.10 How many years ago was Earth formed? (*approximately*) (1)

---

1.11 Using the model of the planets, list the planets from **furthest** to the Sun, to **closest** to the Sun. (3)

---

---

**Language in Context**

**Question 1:** *Underline the correct form of the words given in brackets:*

- 1.1 The Equator (divide/divides) the Earth into two hemispheres.
- 1.2 The Earth (has/have) a round shape.
- 1.3 Asia (are/is) the biggest continent.
- 1.4 The planets all (orbit/orbits) the Sun.
- 1.5 The Earth (is/was) formed billions of years ago.

**Question 2:** *Arrange the seven continents in **alphabetical order**:*

South America    Asia    Australia    North America    Antarctica    Europe    Africa

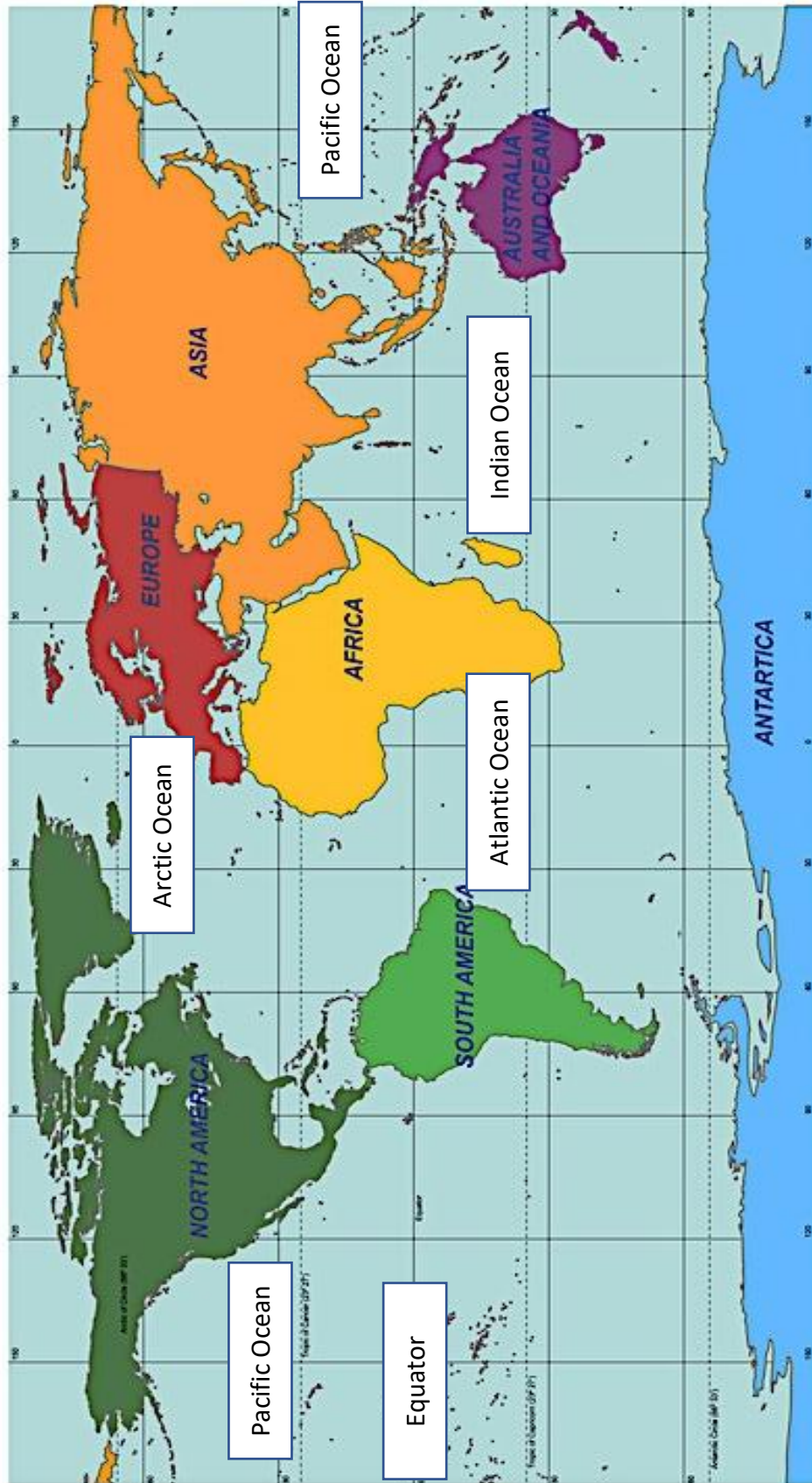
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

**Question 3:** *Underline the **verb** (doing word) in each sentence, then change it to **past tense**:*

- 1. The children learn about the solar system. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. I am listening in class. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Thembe and Sophie are helping the teacher in class. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. My mother buys a model of the solar system at the shop. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. The aeroplane flies above our house. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. I want to be an astronaut. \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 4:** *Sentences. Identify if the sentence is a statement, a question, an exclamation or a command.*

- 1. How old is the Earth? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. The planets all orbit the Sun. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Don't touch the hot plate! \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Life is, at present, only possible on Earth. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. What a beautiful sunset! \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Get out of the way! \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. When will people live on Mars? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Look at the moon! \_\_\_\_\_



**MEMO:****Comprehension:****Question 1:** *Answer the following questions:*

1.1 What is the line called that divides the Earth into two hemispheres? (1)

*The Equator divides the Earth into two hemispheres.*

1.2 Why is it called an 'imaginary line'? (2)

*The Equator is called an imaginary line, because you cannot see the line in real life.**The line is only shown on globes and maps.*

1.3 How many continents were there millions of years ago and what was it called? (2)

*There was only one continent and it was called Pangea.*

1.4 How many continents are there today? (1)

*There are seven continents today. (always write out the number word)*

1.5 Underline the names that don't fit in this list of the continents: (2)

Australia      America      Europe      India      AfricaGreenland      Antarctica      North America      South America      Asia

1.6 How much of the Earth is covered in water? (1)

*Seventy-one percent of the Earth is covered in water.*

1.7 Name the four biggest oceans on Earth. (4)

*Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Arctic Ocean*

1.8 How many planets are there? (1)

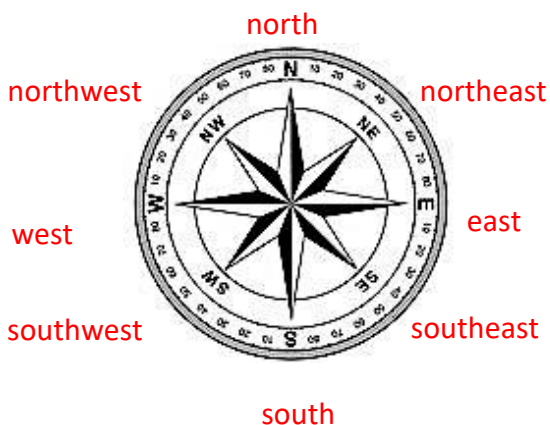
*There are eight planets.*

1.9 Why is Pluto no longer called a planet? (2)

*Pluto has now been classified as a dwarf planet.*1.10 How many years ago was Earth formed? (*approximately*) (1)*Earth was formed around four billion years ago. (Always write number words and not numbers in sentences.)*1.11 Using the model of the planets, list the planets from **furthest** to the Sun, to **closest** to the Sun. (3)*Neptune, Uranus, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Earth, Venus, Mercury*

**Question 2: Label the compass**

Write the following direction in the right places on the compass:



**Language in Context**

**Question 1:** *Underline the correct form of the words given in brackets:*

- 1.1 The Equator (divide/divides) the Earth into two hemispheres.
- 1.2 The Earth (has/have) a round shape.
- 1.3 Asia (are/is) the biggest continent.
- 1.4 The planets all (orbit/orbits) the Sun.
- 1.5 The Earth (is/was) formed billions of years ago.

**Question 2:** *Arrange the seven continents in alphabetical order:*

South America Asia Australia North America Antarctica Europe Africa

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Africa</b>	<b>Antarctica</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>North America</b>	<b>South America</b>

**Question 3:** *Underline the **verb** (doing word) in each sentence, then change it to **past tense**:*

- 1. The children learn about the solar system. learned/learnt
- 2. I am listening in class. was listening
- 3. Thembe and Sophie are helping the teacher in class. were helping
- 4. My mother buys a model of the solar system at the shop. bought
- 5. The aeroplane flies above our house. flew
- 6. I want to be an astronaut. wanted

**Question 4:** *Sentences. Identify if the sentence is a statement, a question, an exclamation or a command.*

- 1. How old is the Earth? Question
- 2. The planets all orbit the Sun. Statement
- 3. Don't touch the hot plate! Command
- 4. Life is, at present, only possible on Earth. Statement

- |                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 5. What a beautiful sunset!       | Exclamation |
| 6. Get out of the way!            | Command     |
| 7. When will people live on Mars? | Question    |
| 8. Look at the moon!              | Exclamation |

*Use the map of the World to show children the continents, oceans etc.*