

**McGraw-Hill Science © 2000, Texas Edition
TAKS Practice Test**

**Grade 3, Chapter 8
The Sun and Its Planets**

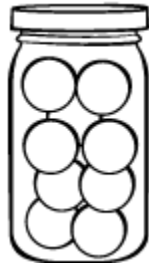
Name _____

Date _____

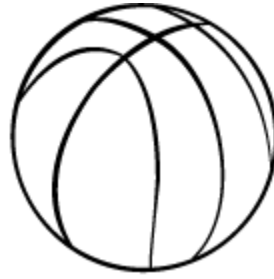
Use the information below and your knowledge of science to answer Questions 1 and 2.



Peas



Ping-pong balls



Basketball

A student models the sizes and arrangements of the nine planets and the Sun. She uses three kinds of round objects: peas, ping-pong balls, and a basketball.

1 What should the basketball be used to model?

- The Sun
- Jupiter
- Saturn
- Earth

2 What should the peas be used to model?

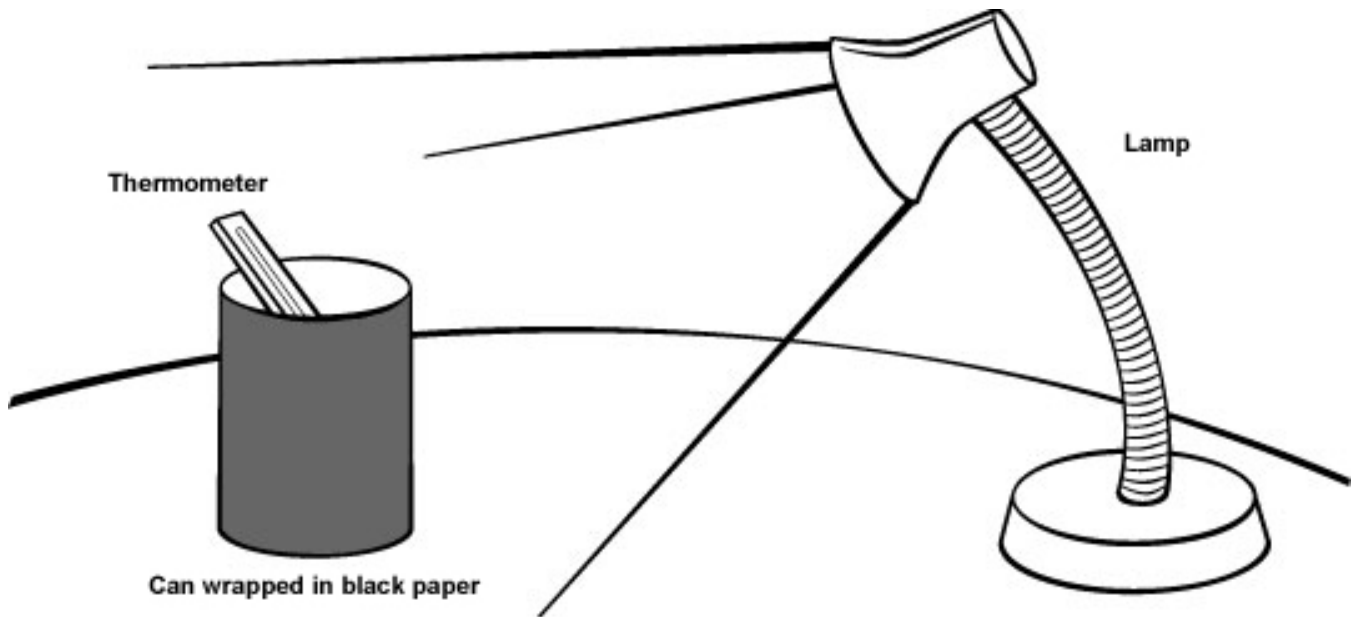
- Jupiter, Neptune, Saturn, and Uranus
- Earth, Jupiter, and Saturn
- Earth, Mars, Mercury, Pluto, and Venus
- Mars, Mercury, Triton, and Venus

3 What planet is nearest to the Sun?

- Mercury
- Venus
- Earth
- Jupiter

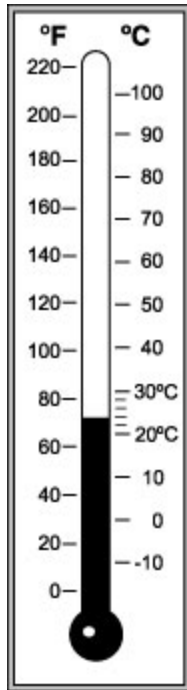
- 4 Jupiter has which of these features?
- An atmosphere that humans could breathe
 - Only one moon
 - Great Red Spot
 - A year that lasts about 200 Earth days
- 5 Neptune is an example of a(an) _____.
- rocky planet
 - gas giant
 - inner planet
 - asteroid
- 6 A student looks at the night sky through a telescope. If the sky is not cloudy, when can she see Halley's Comet?
- Any night
 - During the summer months only
 - Only once a year
 - Only once every 76 years

Use the information below and your knowledge of science to answer Questions 7 to 9.



This set-up models how the Sun heats Earth.

- 7 A student wants to model how the day/night cycle affects Earth's temperature. How can the student best model this?
- Move the can slowly around the lamp.
 - Leave the lamp on for several hours, then turn it off.
 - Cover one half of the can in white paper.
 - Shine a second lamp on the can.
- 8 As the lamp shines on the can, its temperature rises from 20°C to 23°C . This models the effects of _____.
- heat radiating from the Sun to Earth
 - electrical energy radiating from the Sun to Earth
 - mechanical energy radiating from the Sun to Earth
 - heat traveling through Earth's atmosphere and oceans



9 What temperature does this thermometer show, in degrees Celsius ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)? Round your answer to the nearest whole number. Fill in the bubble grid with the correct answer.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Ⓐ | Ⓐ |
| Ⓑ | Ⓑ |
| Ⓒ | Ⓒ |
| Ⓓ | Ⓓ |
| Ⓔ | Ⓔ |
| ⓫ | ⓫ |
| ⓬ | ⓬ |
| ⓭ | ⓭ |
| ⓮ | ⓮ |
| ⓯ | ⓯ |

10 The Sun is a star. Why does the Sun appear to be so much bigger and brighter than other stars in the sky?

- The Sun is in fact the biggest and brightest star.
- The Sun only appears in the daytime.
- The Sun's heat and light make it appear bigger.
- The Sun is the closest star to Earth.

- 11 The outermost layer of the Sun is called the corona. What is the corona made of?
- Hot liquid water
 - Hot gases
 - Cool gases, much like Earth's atmosphere
 - Liquids, gases, and solids
- 12 People burn fuels for energy. The energy in wood, coal, and other fuels comes from _____.
- deep inside Earth
 - the Moon
 - the Sun
 - animals that eat plants
- 13 Mars makes no light of its own. Why are you able to see Mars in the night sky?
- Mars reflects light from Earth.
 - Mars reflects light from the Sun.
 - Mars reflects light from Jupiter.
 - Earth's Moon reflects an image of Mars.
- 14 Where are most of the asteroids in the solar system?
- Between Mercury and Venus
 - Between Mars and Jupiter
 - In orbit around Jupiter
 - In orbit around Neptune

ANSWER KEY and CORRELATIONS

Question	Answer	TAKS	McGraw-Hill Science Grade 3 textbook
1	The Sun	3.11D, 3.3C	p. 229
2	Earth, Mars, Mercury, Pluto, and Venus	3.11C, 3.3C	p. 237
3	Mercury	3.11C	p. 237
4	Great Red Spot	3.11C	p. 246
5	gas giant	3.11C	p. 249
6	Only once every 76 years	4.6A	p. 252
7	Leave the lamp on for several hours, then turn it off.	3.3C	p. 227
8	heat radiating from the Sun to Earth	4.11C, 3.3C	p. 228
9	24	5.4A	p. 227
10	The Sun is the closest star to Earth.	3.11D	p. 228
11	Hot gases	3.11D	p. 229
12	the Sun	4.11C	p. 230
13	Mars reflects light from the Sun.	5.8B	p. 236
14	Between Mars and Jupiter	3.11C	p. 250