INSIDERS

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

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INSIDERS series: A Guide for Parents and Teachers

Dear Parents & Educators:

Welcome to INSIDERS—a visually groundbreaking, state-of-the art nonfiction series.

Using CGI and 3-D model illustration and imagery, each INSIDERS title features an arresting design that is complimented by fascinating, up-to-date information in a user-friendly format. Each book in the series is written and researched by an expert in the field, and readers will pore over pages of striking images that present each topic in surprising new angles and dimensions. This stunning new series will offer an inside look into twelve riveting subjects, beginning with *Dinosaurs, Egypt, Oceans,* and *Space*.

The questions and activities provided in this guide are organized by content area to facilitate classroom integration, but can easily be used at home to extend the experience beyond the pages of the INSIDERS books.

You will find broad ideas that can be tailored to any or all books in the series, plus some specific suggestions for each of the first four installments in the series.

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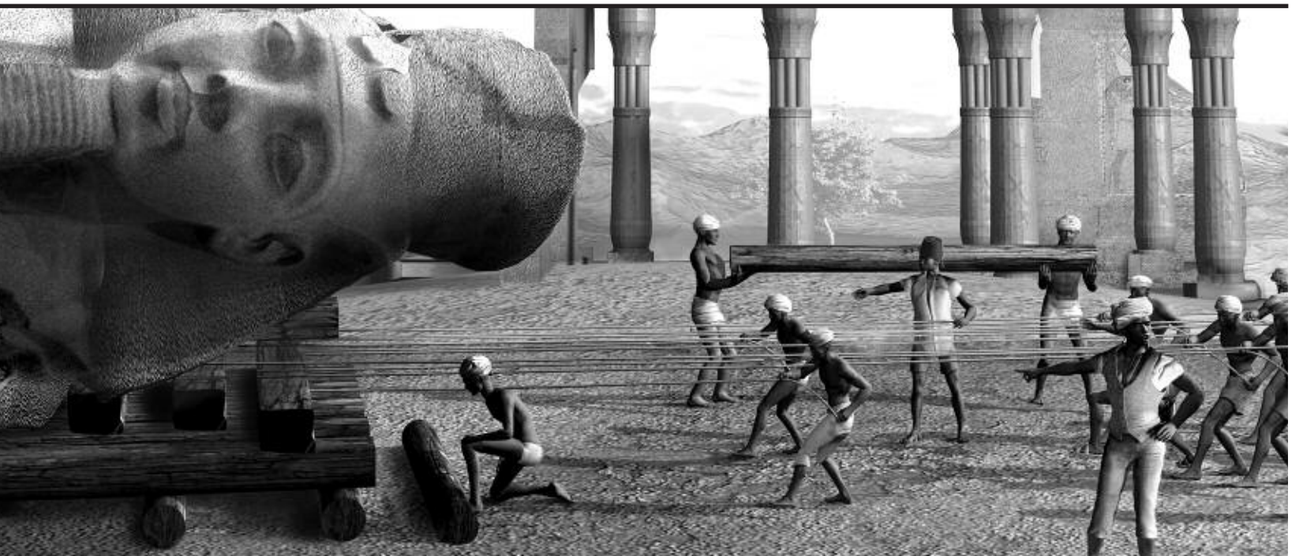

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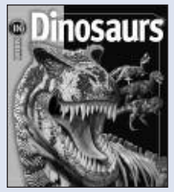

Dinosaurs

By John Long

Dinosaurs explores every aspect of the time when these real-life monsters ruled the Earth, with illustrations that reveal the layers of dinosaur anatomy, show the process of fossil formation, and explore several well-known species in depth.

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Egypt

By Joyce Tyldesley

Get a glimpse inside the chambers of King Tut's tomb, examine each layer of mummification, and see the inner workings of pyramid-building. *Egypt* covers every facet of ancient Egyptian civilization!

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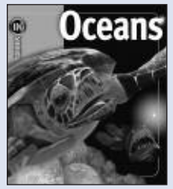

Oceans

By Beverly McMillan and John A. Musick

Oceans is a multidimensional showcase of the aquatic universe! Take a look inside the formation of waves and tsunamis, see a cross-section of an underwater living lab, and explore the plant and animal species that live miles beneath the ocean's surface.

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Space

By Alan Dyer

With state-of-the-art illustrations that reveal the anatomy of a supernova; provide a glimpse of the inner workings of a comet; and probe the surface terrain of Mars, *Space* is a young explorer's guide to every aspect of the universe that will take readers to the farthest reaches of the cosmos.

ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-3860-6
ISBN-10: 1-4169-3860-5

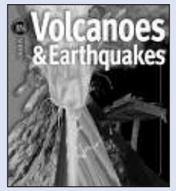
AVAILABLE DECEMBER 2007

Knights & Castles

By Philip Dixon

In this multidimensional look at the medieval world, get a glimpse of the cross section of a functioning castle; examine the weapons and machines used for battle and defense; and see what knights wore underneath their armor.

ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-3864-4
ISBN-10: 1-4169-3864-8



Volcanoes & Earthquakes

By Ken Rubin

With state-of-the-art illustrations that reveal the anatomy of an earthquake, provide a glimpse inside a volcano, and explore the subterranean landscapes where these natural phenomena are formed, this book is an in-depth look at the destructive forces of eruptions and earthquakes.

ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-3862-0
ISBN-10: 1-4169-3862-1

COMING IN 2008!
HUMAN BODY • PREDATORS • INVENTIONS • INSECTS & SPIDERS

Activity Suggestion

BEFORE READING

- Before opening the book, discuss what you know about the topic. Have you read any other books about the subject? Make a list of ideas, words, and facts and keep it handy to compare later with what you've learned!
- Identify what specific details about the subject matter you think the book will address.

AFTER READING

- Extend the experience by visiting an art or natural history museum, aquarium, zoo… that focuses the subject.
- Check out other books on the topic, both nonfiction and fiction. Compare and contrast the information you learned in each, the writing styles, etc.

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

- Create a painting, drawing, collage, sculpture, weaving, etc. based on the topic. Depending on the subject, choose a style that compliments the theme of the book. (Oceans – watercolor or sand art, Egypt – draw on papyrus, make jewelry)
- Construct a 3D diorama or model of a favorite image
- Design a costume or mask based on the book content
- Write a song about the subject, using the details you've learned
- How would you express what you've learned in movement? For example, how do you think different kinds of dinosaurs might have moved? Can you walk as you think the Egyptians might have?
- If you were going to host a party based on the book's theme, design invitations, decorations, costumes, games to play, food to serve, and party favors relating to the subject.
- Discuss the relationship of the art to the text in the book. How do the illustrations supplement the text? Would they work without one another?

SCIENCE

- Earth is a living planet, changing all of the time. In our lifetimes, we don't really notice those changes unless there is a major event, like a volcanic eruption or an earthquake. But how does today's planet Earth compare with the Earth that the dinosaurs roamed, or Earth when there was just one vast ocean?
- Science in the news – Read through a daily newspaper and find articles about current science discoveries, or articles that use scientific evidence to support their stories.
- Learn more about NASA, NSF, NOAA, and other organizations that exist to further scientific knowledge and exploration.
- What is technology and how does technology contribute to the INSIDERS books?
    - Has technology improved our knowledge of the subject? How?
    - Give specific examples, across the series as well as in specific books.
    - What tools would you create in the future to help discover more information about each subject?
- Scientific classification is a way to organize the world, and to group living things that are alike in certain ways. Try to classify the books from broadest to most specific topic or from oldest to most recent subject; what other ways can you think of to group and arrange them?
- Discuss and explore the life cycles in the books.

- Find and talk about the scientific overlaps and interconnections among the books, for example:
    - Egyptian gods & the solar system
    - Earth's history & dinosaurs
    - Oceans & space

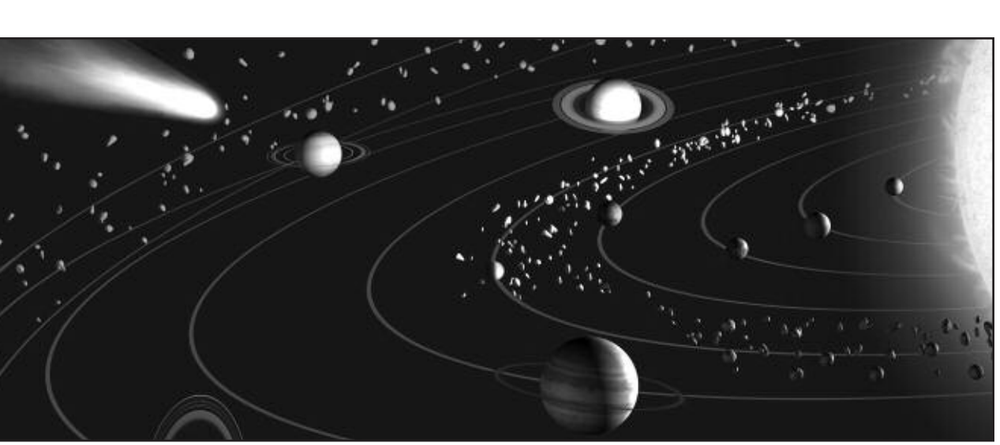
HISTORY / SOCIAL STUDIES

- On a globe or map of the world, locate pivotal locations from the book/s (*Egypt* may prove easy, but what locations in Earth are important in *Space*?)
- After reading multiple INSIDERS books, are there any specific or general locations that appear multiple times? Using a map of the world, use different colored push pins to indicate spots that appear in each book. Are there pins clustered anywhere?
- Discuss all of the different modes of transportation you find in the books. Are the earliest forms of transportation still being used today?
- Early myths and legends were ways for human beings to explain and make sense of their world. Take a closer look at the legends in each of the books. Make up your own myth or legend to explain – without using scientific explanations – why the tides ebb and flow, why/how the sun and moon share the sky, or any other natural occurrence.
- There are a number of careers that study historical events, social and cultural trends, and look more closely at the boundaries of our world. Learn more about these careers.
    - Sociology, history, anthropology, geography, cartography, philosophy, religion, economics
- INSIDERS around the world
    - What countries border each ocean? What languages are spoken there?
    - What other ancient cultures to you know about in addition to Egypt? Where did they live? What did they contribute to the world?
    - In what country was the first dinosaur fossil discovered? Are there any countries or continents where evidence of dinosaurs has not been found?
    - Compare the United States space program with those of other nations.

LITERATURE / LANGUAGE ARTS

- Write a letter or e-mail to tell a friend about the book
- Create an advertisement for the book
- Tell a fictional story based on the information that you learned
- Create a crossword puzzle using names, places, and events from the book
- Talk about how the books are similar to one another, and how they are different. This can refer to the subject and content of the books or the format of the information presented. Are there any surprising connections?

- A rebus is like a word puzzle, where pictures are used to represent words or portions of words, for example: h + (show an ear) = hear or here. Retell a portion of the book using rebus symbols.
- Write an acrostic poem using the book title or a new word you learned inside. In an acrostic poem the first letter of each line spells out a word. For example:
    - **S**hifting currents flowing free
    - **E**arth's blue blanket
    - **A**ncient and mysterious
- Nonfiction authors are still telling a story
    - What is the setting for this book – is there more than one?
    - Who are the characters?
    - Is there a problem to be solved? Is there a resolution?
    - What are the events that you experience?
    - Is the story told in order? How is it organized? Could it have been set up in other ways?
- What would an INSIDERS book have looked like if it was published in the 1800s? What did we know about these topics then, what would the illustrations have looked like, what would the latest discoveries be? Research, write, and illustrate this story. Or create a science fiction account of INSIDERS 2050. Imagine and describe new discoveries!
- Write a newspaper article / newscast about the topic:
    - Based on a single spread, or the entire book
    - Research your topic, and include as many pertinent details as possible (who, what, when, where, why, how)



MATHEMATICS

- Graphs and charts are used throughout the books to compare information and to illustrate trends. See how many different kinds of graphs and charts you can find. Show information about your life using different kinds of graphs and charts. For example, use a bar graph to compare the ages of everyone in your family, or use a pie chart to show where you spend a typical 24-hour day.
- In Space the life of the Universe is condensed into a 365-day year. Look at other spans of time in this way. Ancient Egypt from rise to fall, the dinosaurs' time on Earth, your life so far, etc.
- What different methods of measurement do you find in the books? What tools are used to measure them?
- Figure out how much you would weigh on Jupiter. How many of you, head to foot, would it take to reach from the deepest point in the Pacific Ocean to the surface. Compare your weight to that of a Euoplocephalus as a percentage. How old would you be if you were born the year that the Rosetta stone was discovered?
- The geometry of INSIDERS – What geometric shapes can you find in the books? Look at the tables, charts, and graphs, as well as the illustrations.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Create a trivia quiz game to play with friends, pulling facts from one or more INSIDERS books
- After reading the books, find or create artifacts from the books (plaster of Paris fossil, beach sand, amulet, dinosaur egg, meteorite, etc.) and write a sentence or two about how the item connects to the book. Share and trade your treasures with friends.
- Write your own addition to the INSIDERS series. Determine a topic, conduct research, decide on your narrative approach, create the appropriate artwork and graphics to demonstrate your content, put everything together in your own book
- Exploration as a theme throughout the books
    - What is exploration? Does it always involve traveling?
    - Talk about why humans explore
    - When were important discoveries made in each INSIDERS subject
    - How did we make discoveries in each of these areas?
    - What role does technology play in how we explore and how exploration has changed over time?
- Make up your own activities to go with the INSIDERS book/s you've read. Use them to test your friends' knowledge of the subject, or to share what you've learned! Here are some options:
    - Fill in the blanks
    - Word search / Circle word
    - Crossword puzzle
    - Matching game
    - Trading cards
    - Trivia game
    - Coded messages
    - Word Scramble
    - True or false quiz
    - Board game

Visit SimonSaysTEACH.com or MoreINSIDERS.com for additional activity suggestions.

Design a perfect predator or an invincible herbivore

Based on what you've learned from *Dinosaurs*, select the arsenal of defensive or aggressive traits to construct your own super-dinosaur.

Select any of the traits below, and feel free to design ones of your own that would be advantageous to your dinosaur.

Name your dinosaur: _____

Use the other side of this page to draw a picture of it.

Long neck	**Bony plates**	**Serrated teeth**
Massive head	**Clubbed tail**	**Spikes or spines**
Fast runner	**Whip-like tail**	**Horns**
Small, light body	**Sharp teeth**	**Tightly-packed teeth**
Loner	**Flexible jaw**	**Broad, pointed teeth**
Small brain	**Muscular arms**	**Duck-billed**
Pack animal	**Small head**	**Horny beak**
Huge body	**Powerful jaws**	
Slow mover	**Forward facing eyes**	
Sharp claws	**Flexible neck**	

Go beyond the pages of INSIDERS: *Dinosaurs!*

What's on the menu?

About 65% of dinosaur fossils found were plant eaters, 35% were carnivores.

Based on what you learned in *Dinosaurs*, determine whether the dinosaur trait is more likely to belong to a carnivore or an herbivore.

Trait	**What's on the menu?** (circle one)	
1. Closely packed, grinding teeth	Plants	Meat
2. Sickle-shaped claws	Plants	Meat
3. Long intestines	Plants	Meat
4. Cheek pouches	Plants	Meat
5. Sharp teeth	Plants	Meat
6. Bony armor	Plants	Meat
7. Flexible, powerful jaws	Plants	Meat
8. Huge skull	Plants	Meat
9. Horny beak	Plants	Meat
10. Small head	Plants	Meat

BONUS: Name one dinosaur that had each trait! (Check your answers in *Dinosaurs*.)

Answers: 1. Plants, 2. Meat, 3. Plants, 4. Plants, 5. Meat, 6. Plants, 7. Meat, 8. Meat, 9. Plants, 10. Plants

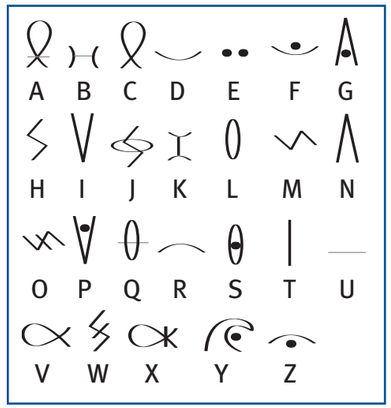
Crack the code

The Rosetta stone was found in 1799. It contained the same message written in both Egyptian and Greek, unlocking the mystery of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics.

Before then, the symbols were a mystery – like a code to be cracked.

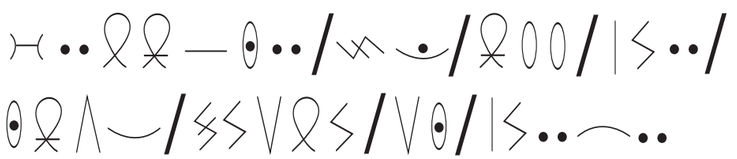
Have you tried this? Using the hieroglyphic "alphabet" in the book, write the name of your favorite band, food, pet, etc. Have a friend use the alphabet to decipher your message.

Use the following code key to reveal the answers to the jokes below.

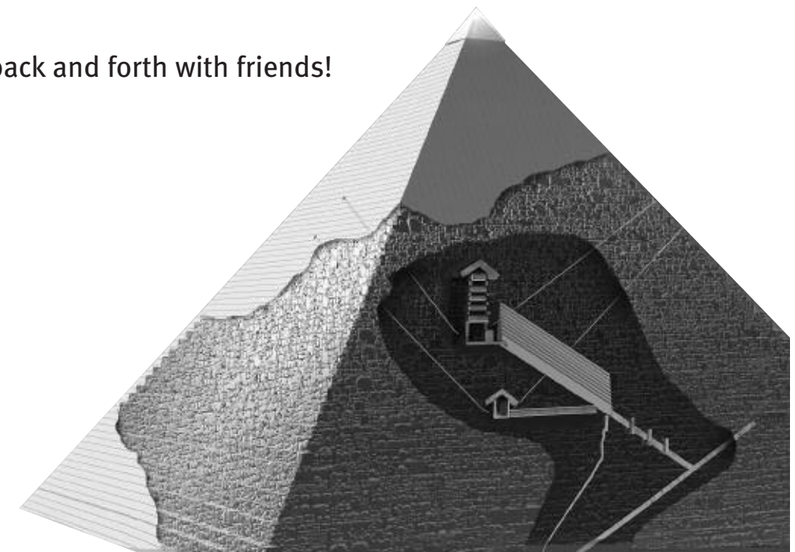


What did King Tut say when he had a nightmare?

Do you know why you'll never starve to death in the desert?



Use this code to write messages back and forth with friends!



Answers: I want my Mummy; Because of all the "sand which is" there

Go beyond the pages of INSIDERS: *Egypt!*

Unearth the answers

Use the clues in the left column to fill in the blanks on the right, with words related to *Egypt*. The circled letters will spell out a bonus word.

1. Mythological beast guarding the royal pyramids _ _ ○○ _ _
2. The longest river in the world The _ _ _○
3. Shape of stone or brick tombs _ _○_ _ _ _
4. The king of ancient Egypt _ _ _ _ _○_
5. The Great Pyramid location ○_ _ _
6. Piece of jewelry worn as protection against evil _ _ _○_ _
7. A line of ruling kings _○_ _ _ _ _
8. Place for religious worship _ _ _○_ _
9. Son of Isis and Osiris ○_ _ _ _
10. Mummification readied the deceased for this _ _ _ _ _ _○_ _
11. Stone beetle _○_ _ _ _
12. Plant used to make paper _ _ _ _ _ _○

BONUS WORD: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

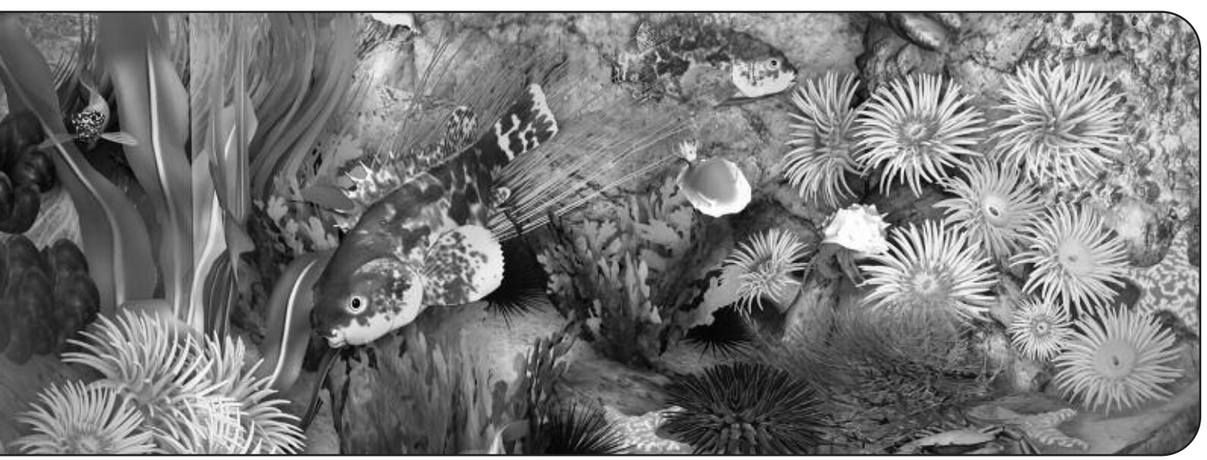
Answers: 1. sphinx, 2. Nile, 3. pyramid, 4. pharaoh, 5. Giza, 6. amulet, 7. dynasty, 8. temple, 9. Horus, 10. afterlife, 11. scarab, 12. papyrus, Bonus: hieroglyphics

Ocean-abulary

Match each definition in the left column with the correct *Ocean* word in the right.

1. Rocky structure containing a diverse community of organisms
2. Movement of animals from one place to another, often over long distances
3. A disturbance in the ocean's water as energy moves through it
4. Low point of an ocean wave
5. Mariners' navigation tool
6. Split in the sea floor where one ocean plate is sliding under another
7. Single huge land mass that split to form the modern continents
8. Coastal bay where salt and fresh water mix
9. A moving mass of water
10. Method for locating objects by bouncing sound waves off them

A. Pangaea
B. Sonar
C. Migration
D. Sextant
E. Estuary
F. Coral reef
G. Trough
H. Trench
I. Current
J. Wave



Answers: 1-F; 2-C; 3-J; 4-G; 5-D; 6-H; 7-A; 8-E; 9-I; 10-B

Go beyond the pages of inSIDERS: *Oceans!*

Ocean EST contest

Circle the "EST" of each trio – coldest, deepest, largest, and so on. (Note: The EST of the group may not be the EST in the world. For example, the world's deepest ocean isn't one of the "Deepest" options.)

DEEPEST ocean
(Based on maximum depths)
A. Atlantic
B. Arctic
C. Indian

SHALLOWEST creature
(Based on where they live)
A. Tripod Fish
B. Phytoplankton
C. Blue Hake

HOTTEST zone
E. Tropical
F. Temperate
G. Polar

COLDEST ocean
J. Pacific
K. Atlantic
L. Arctic

LARGEST animal
S. Elephant
T. Blue whale
U. Dinosaur

SMALLEST ocean
N. Southern
O. Indian
P. Arctic

NEWEST tools
J. Sextant
K. Astrolabe
L. Sonar

OLDEST sea explorer
T. Magellan's *Victoria*
U. Egyptian trading boats
V. Viking warriors

FASTEST swimmer
E. Sailfish
F. Mako Shark
G. Loggerhead Sea Turtle

SLOWEST swimmer
L. Sailfish
M. Mako Shark
N. Loggerhead Sea Turtle

Unscramble the circled letters from the correct answers above to reveal the answer.

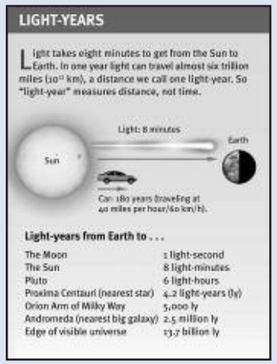
BONUS: Earth's nickname, thanks to the oceans _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

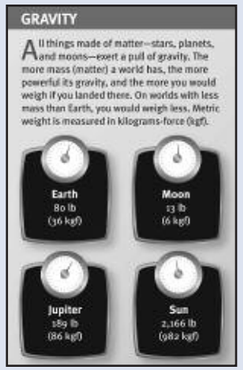
Answers: Deepest: A, Shallowest: B, Hottest: E, Coldest: L, Largest: T, Smallest: P, Newest: L, Oldest: U, Fastest: E, Slowest: N, BONUS: Blue Planet

It Figures!

Try out some out-of-this-world space math!

A. It takes 8 light-minutes for light to travel from the Sun to Earth. How many times could light travel back and forth between the Sun and Earth in one light-year? (Calculate based on a 365 day year.)

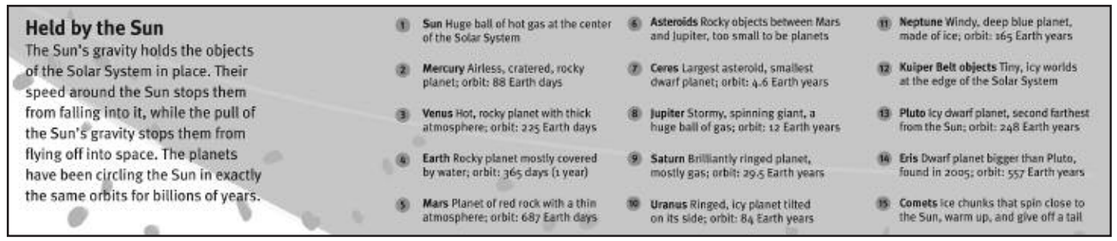




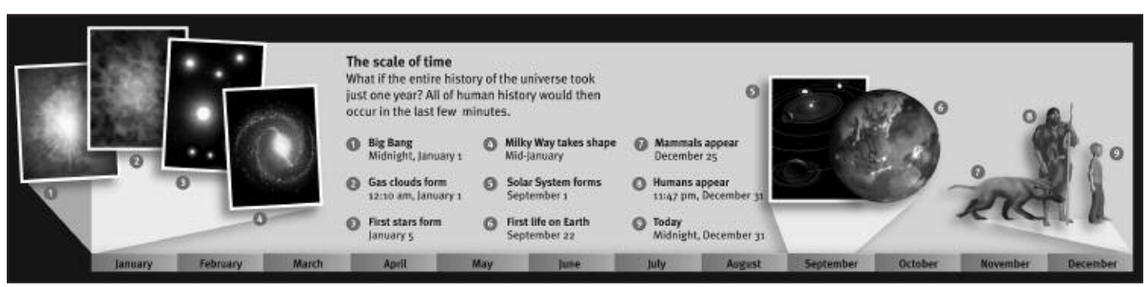
B. How much would a 100 lb person weigh on the moon?

There's a cool website that will calculate your weight on all of the planets, the Sun, Moon, and other celestial bodies! www.exploratorium.edu/ronh/weight/index.html

C. How many Mercury years old are you? Mars years? (Use 365 days per year times your age)



D. This chart shows the history of the universe – from creation to today – condensed into the space of a year. What would be going on in school when the first life on Earth appears? What is happening at Christmas/New Year's? Are you surprised at how far into this "universe year" humans appear?



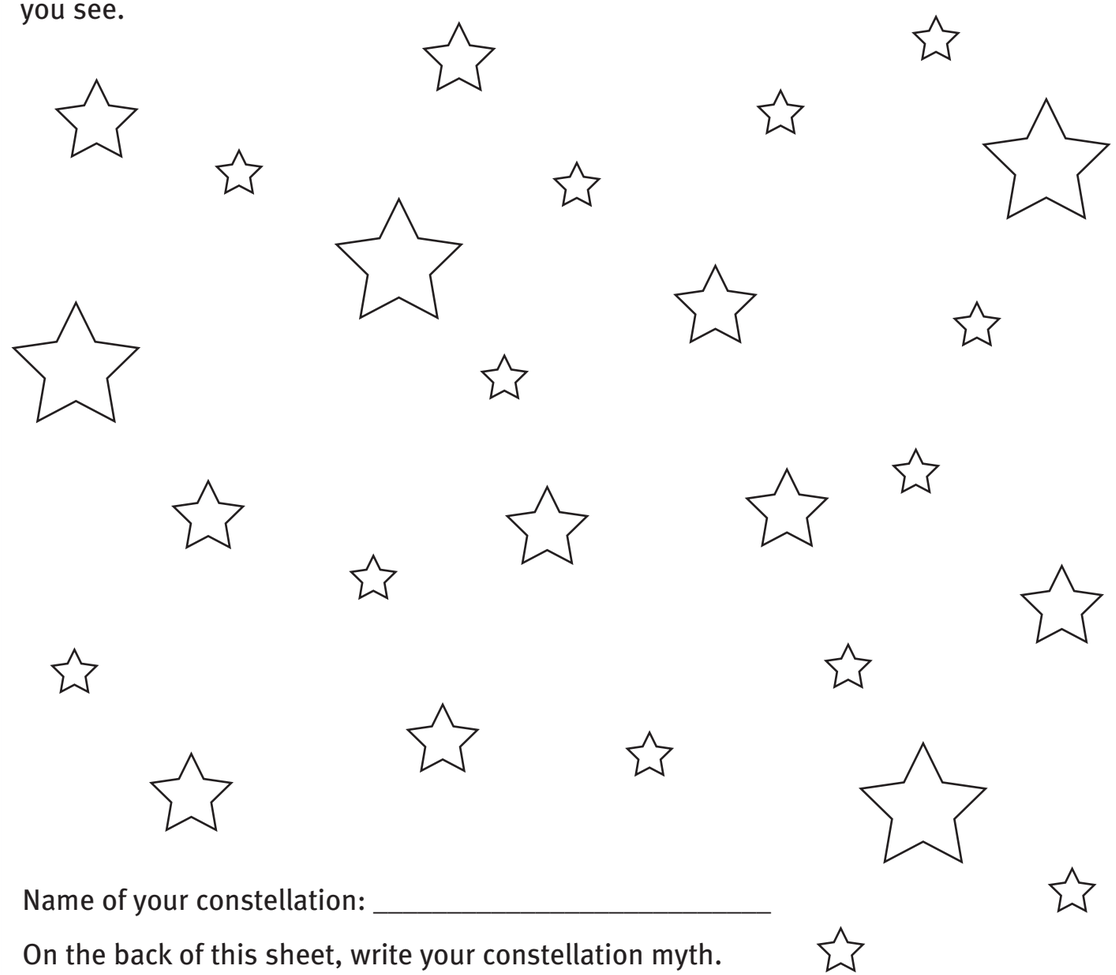
A: **65,700** [365 days x 24 hrs x 60 min = 525,600 min / 8];
B: Moon = **17 lb** (or 16.666...);
C: Differs depending on your age (answers provided for age range of book)
Age 8 [365 x 8 = 2920 / 88 = **33 Mercury years**] [365 x 8 = 2920 / 687 = **4 Mars years**]
Age 9 [365 x 9 = 3285 / 88 = **37 Mercury years**] [365 x 9 = 3285 / 687 = **5 Mars years**]
Age 10 [365 x 10 = 3650 / 88 = **41 Mercury years**] [365 x 10 = 3650 / 687 = **5 Mars years**]
Age 11 [365 x 11 = 4015 / 88 = **46 Mercury years**] [365 x 11 = 4015 / 687 = **6 Mars years**]
Age 12 [365 x 12 = 4380 / 88 = **50 Mercury years**] [365 x 12 = 4380 / 687 = **6 Mars years**];
D: First life on earth = September = **Back to school**
Christmas/New Year's = **Mammals and humans appear**

Go beyond the pages of inSIDERS: *Space!*

Constellation Creation

"Since ancient times, people have looked to the sky and imagined the stars joined together to make patterns, called constellations. By learning to recognize these patterns, people could find their way at night. Stories about mythical people and animals were retold through the ages – the sky served as a great teacher. Many of the constellations we use today were invented 4,000 years ago in the Middle East, handed down to us from the Greek and Roman civilizations 2,000 years ago."

Using the star field below (and your imagination!) find a shape, form, or figure and "connect the dots." Create a constellation myth about the person, animal, or object you see.



Name of your constellation: _____

On the back of this sheet, write your constellation myth.