

Name: _____

Date: _____



Venus

Reading Comprehension



Read the text and answer the questions.

Venus is the second planet from the Sun and it is the brightest planet in our sky. It is sometimes called the Evening Star or the Morning Star because we can often see it at these times of day. Venus is similar to Earth in size, mass and density but its atmosphere is very different. Its air is mostly carbon dioxide and it has a lot of clouds which make it the hottest planet in our solar system. The temperature on Venus is more than 450 degrees Celsius which is hotter than the surface of Mercury even though Mercury is closer to the Sun.

We know a lot about Venus because many spacecraft have visited the planet. The first one was Mariner 2 in 1962. It flew past Venus and took measurements of its atmosphere. Since then other spacecraft have landed on the surface of Venus and sent back information. But they only worked for a short time because the conditions are so difficult there.

The Soviet Union's Venera 7 was the first spacecraft to land on another planet when it arrived on Venus in 1970. It sent back data for 23 minutes before it stopped working. The longest any spacecraft has survived on Venus is two hours and seven minutes. That was the American spacecraft Pioneer Venus Multiprobe in 1978.

- 1 What was the first spacecraft to visit Venus, and what did it do?

- 2 Why have spacecraft sent to Venus only worked for a short time?

- 3 What makes Venus the brightest planet in our sky?

- 4 Why is Venus considered the hottest planet in our solar system?
