

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## "FUN FACTS ABOUT SATURN"

Directions: Attention, brave explorers of the universe! Get ready to embark on an extraordinary quest to discover the wonders of Saturn—dive into its dazzling rings, its mysterious moons, and its epic storms. Get ready to be amazed, inspired, and filled with cosmic curiosity! Read the article below. Use close reading strategies like highlighting, underlining, and small note-taking (annotating) as often as possible to prepare to complete the coordinating tasks.

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Saturn, the sixth planet from the Sun, is truly a captivating celestial body that continues to astound astronomers and spark curiosity.

One of the most striking and captivating aspects of Saturn is its magnificent rings. These rings, composed of countless icy particles, create a spectacle that sets Saturn apart from other planets. Ranging in size from tiny grains to massive boulders, these icy rings extend approximately 175,000 miles from the planet's center. Despite their impressive span, the rings are surprisingly thin, with an average thickness of only 30 feet. To put it into perspective, the rings are even narrower than an average school bus, which is about 39 feet long. The incredible diversity of the rings add to the beauty of Saturn.

In addition to its stunning rings, Saturn exhibits an intriguing characteristic that sets it apart from most other objects we encounter in our daily lives—it has a lower density than water. This means that if we were somehow able to assemble a pool large enough to accommodate Saturn's size, this gas giant would actually float on the pool's surface. Despite its immense size, Saturn is remarkably lightweight for its volume. This peculiar characteristic serves as a reminder that appearances can be deceiving and that the laws of physics can manifest in interesting ways.

Saturn is not only known for its rings but also for its family of moons. In fact, it currently holds the record for the most known moons in our solar system, boasting an impressive 82 moons. This surpasses the moon count of Jupiter, its neighboring planet, by three. One of Saturn's most prominent moons is Titan, which scientists believe has the potential to support life in some form. The International Astronomical Union assigns names to Saturn's moons based on a specific system of classification.

When it comes to weather, Saturn's atmospheric conditions are truly extraordinary. The planet experiences powerful storms that rival some of the most intense weather phenomena observed on Earth. These storms can be compared to thunderstorms and hurricanes in terms of their scale and fierceness. Among Saturn's notable weather features is the Great White Spot, a massive storm system that occurs roughly once every 30 years and persists for several months. This phenomenon arises when Saturn's northern hemisphere tilts toward the Sun. The Great White Spot can grow to be as wide as Earth itself, showcasing the immense scale and impact of Saturn's atmospheric activity.

Take some time to explore further and continue to marvel at the wonders of our vast universe.

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## "FUN FACTS ABOUT SATURN" MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. How many moons does Saturn have?
  - a) 82
  - b) 67
  - c) 45
  - d) 28
  
2. What is the average thickness of Saturn's rings?
  - a) 10 feet
  - b) 50 feet
  - c) 100 feet
  - d) 30 feet
  
3. Why is the moon called "Titan" especially interesting to scientists?
  - a) It has the potential to support life.
  - b) It is the biggest moon.
  - c) Evidence of life was found during a space mission.
  - d) It experiences massive storms.
  
4. How often does the Great White Spot storm occur on Saturn?
  - a) Once every year
  - b) Once every 30 years
  - c) Once every 10 years
  - d) Once every 5 years
  
5. True or False: Saturn is more dense than water.
  - a) True
  - b) False

## **"FUN FACTS ABOUT SATURN" MULTIPLE CHOICE ANSWER KEY**

Answer Key:

1:A

2:D

3:A

4:B

5:B

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## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

**Writing Prompt:** Imagine you are an explorer visiting Saturn for the first time. Write a short story or journal entry describing your journey to Saturn, what you see and experience there, and make some observations about what it might be like to live on Saturn. Use descriptive language and incorporate facts you've learned about Saturn.

**Build a Model of Saturn with Rings and Moons:** Using craft supplies or upcycled materials, create a model of Saturn and its rings and moons.

**Skit Performance:** Portray a skit inspired by the planet, Saturn. The skit could be an interview with the planet itself, the rings, one of Saturn's moons, or showcase a dramatic representation of a weatherperson delivering a broadcast live from a storm on Saturn. Research your assigned topic and incorporate factual information.

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## CONNECTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS' SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization composed of countries working together to address global issues. One important focus of the UN is sustainability, which means taking actions to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. To promote sustainability, the UN developed "The 17 Goals," also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals will help us create a better world by the year 2030. These goals are essential for all people because they address the challenges our planet and people face.

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Saturn can be connected to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13: Climate Action.

Saturn, like other celestial bodies, represents the vastness and complexity of our universe, which serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving our own planet. SDG 13 calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. While Saturn is not directly affected by climate change, the exploration and study of celestial bodies, including Saturn, contribute to our understanding of the universe and the fundamental forces that shape our planet. By exploring Saturn, scientists gain knowledge and insights that can inform climate action strategies on Earth.

Weather patterns are about how the weather behaves, such as when it's sunny, rainy, or windy. When scientists understand how weather works on Saturn, they can use that knowledge to make better predictions about our own weather on Earth. This helps them improve the models they use to predict and understand Earth's weather.

Task: According to the United States Geological Survey, climate change can increase the "intensity of storms" on Earth. With your classmates, research and identify five safety tips for storm preparation. In other words, how can you prepare families, homes, and schools for an incoming storm? Be sure to focus on one specific type of storm. Design a poster or infographic to educate people.

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## SOCIAL MEDIA AND SATURN

The world is becoming more and more digitized each day. Our devices are very much part of our day-to-day lives. Before you become an active social media or web user, it's important to practice with some of the skills related to digital communication. In the article about Saturn, it reads: "One of Saturn's most prominent moons, Titan...has the potential to support life in some form." Complete one of the following and use the space below or the back of this page to complete the task:

**Caption Contest:** Write creative captions to engage viewers in the idea that there could be life on one of Saturn's moons. Include some clever hashtags.

**Advertisement:** Design and create a graphic that could be posted to social media to promote a journey to Titan. Use eye-catching images and limited words to convince people to come along.

**Titan Profile:** Design several posts from the perspective of an alien who lives on Titan. What is life like there? Be detailed, clever, and engaging.

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