# Year 9 Science: Stars, planets and moons: our place in the universe

Name: _____ Date: _____

Try these without your notes first, then check the answer key.

## Practice

1. Venus is often the brightest point in the evening sky after sunset. Is it a star or a planet, and how do you know it does not make its own light?

2. Titan orbits Saturn and is bigger than the planet Mercury. Which group does Titan belong to, and why does its size not matter?

3. A friend says the Moon only comes out at night. Give two pieces of evidence that this is wrong.

4. Mars is on average about 228 million km from the Sun. How long does sunlight take to reach Mars, in minutes?

5. Matariki rises together and keeps the same shape every year. Explain why it cannot be a group of planets.

## Fix the mistake

6. Correct this statement: "The Moon glows at night because it makes its own light."

7. Correct this statement: "The phases happen because Earth's shadow covers part of the Moon."

8. Correct this statement: "The Sun cannot be a star because it is far bigger and brighter than the stars at night."

9. Correct this statement: "Titan is bigger than Mercury, so Titan must be a planet."