Year 9 Science: The planets in order, dwarf planets and how we explore space

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

Practice

1. List the planets in order from the Sun and mark which are rocky, gas giants and ice giants.

2. Eris is round, orbits the Sun and lies among many other icy bodies beyond Neptune. Why is it not a planet?

3. Saturn is about 9.5 AU from the Sun. Roughly what fraction of Earth's sunlight does it receive?

4. A telescope cannot touch Mars, yet scientists know its air is mostly carbon dioxide. How?

5. Give one thing an orrery shows well and one thing it gets wrong.

Fix the mistake

6. Correct this statement: "Pluto stopped being a planet because it is too small."

7. Correct this statement: "At twice the distance from the Sun, a planet gets half the sunlight."

8. Correct this statement: "Mercury is closest to the Sun, so it must be the hottest planet."

9. Correct this statement: "Scientists switched to a Sun-centred model as soon as Copernicus published it in 1543."