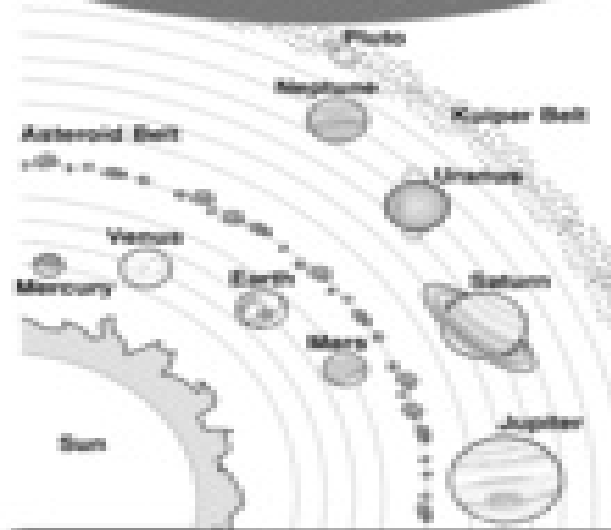


Name _____

Class _____

SPACE EXPLORERS

A spacecraft cannot land on Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, or Uranus because these giant planets are made mostly of gases.



People have been exploring space for many years. Shuttles have been sent into space. Space stations have been built. Men have even landed on the moon. From all these efforts, scientists have learned many facts about our solar system. They know that the sun contains 99.8% of the mass of our solar system. They now know that the four planets closest to the sun, including Earth, are made mostly of iron and rock while the outer planets are made mostly of gases. They also know that the Asteroid Belt divides the inner planets from the outer planets. Scientists have even found the Kuiper Belt, a region of space where dwarf planets like Pluto orbit the sun. Just imagine what else they might learn about our solar system in the future!

Use the passage and the diagram to answer the questions.

1. What are the four inner planets? _____

2. What are the four outer planets? _____

3. What do we know about the sun? _____

4. Where is the Asteroid Belt located? _____

5. What is the Kuiper Belt? _____
