

Astronomy III

- Which planet has 2.5 times the mass of all other planets in our solar system combined?
 - Mars
 - Jupiter
 - Saturn
- Which planet orbits the Sun tipped on its side?
 - Venus
 - Neptune
 - Uranus
- How long is Neptune's orbital period (i.e., one Neptune year)?
 - 98 Earth days
 - 4.5 Earth years
 - 165 Earth years
- In our solar system, what do the planets and comets travel around?
 - The galactic core
 - The Sun
 - Each travels independently
- What material gives Mars its reddish appearance?
 - Ruby dust (aluminum oxide with chromium)
 - Copper nitrate
 - Iron oxide
- Which gas comprises 95% of the Martian atmosphere?
 - Methane
 - Nitrogen
 - Carbon dioxide
- Which of the following planets spins in the opposite direction of the others, such that the Sun rises in the West?
 - Venus
 - Saturn
 - Mars
- Jupiter's moon Io is known for what?
 - Lush green vegetation
 - Hundreds of active volcanoes
 - Mysterious radio waves
- Which of the following is **NOT** true about what the weather on Venus is like?
 - A ground temperature hot enough to melt most items on Earth
 - Sulfuric acid rains
 - Relatively calm skies in the upper atmosphere
- What do Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus have in common?
 - Their orbital paths cross each other
 - They all have rings
 - Spacecraft have found liquid water on their surface

Answers:

- (B)
- (C) This tilt results in extreme seasons that last for about 20 Earth years or roughly a quarter of the Uranian year.
- (C)
- (B)
- (C)
- (C)
- (A) This is known as a retrograde rotation.
- (B)
- (C) According to the European *Venus Express* mission, 2006-2014, the upper winds of Venus fly 50x faster than the planet's rotation.
- (B)

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