SECTION: SMALL BODIES IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM

1. D
2. C
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. B
7. C
8. D
9. A
10. asteroids
11. the asteroid belt
12. C
13. A
14. B
15. C
16. A
17. B
18. A
19. B
20. C
21. A
22. A
23. B
24. C
25. B
26. D

Vocabulary and Section Summary

SECTION: OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

1. astronomical unit: the average distance between the Earth and the sun; approximately 150 million kilometers (symbol, AU)

SECTION: THE INNER PLANETS

1. terrestrial planet: one of the highly dense planets nearest to the sun; Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Earth
2. prograde rotation: the counterclockwise spin of a planet or moon as seen from above the planet's North Pole; rotation in the same direction as the sun's rotation
3. retrograde rotation: the clockwise spin of a planet or moon as seen from above the planet's North Pole

SECTION: THE OUTER PLANETS

1. gas giant: a planet that has a deep, massive atmosphere, such as Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, or Neptune

SECTION: MOONS

1. satellite: a natural or artificial body that revolves around a planet
2. phase: the change in the sunlit area of one celestial body as seen from another celestial body
3. eclipse: an event in which the shadow of one celestial body falls on another

SECTION: SMALL BODIES IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM

1. comet: a small body of ice, rock, and cosmic dust that follows an elliptical orbit around the sun and that gives off gas and dust in the form of a tail as it passes close to the sun
2. asteroid: a small, rocky object that orbits the sun, usually in a band between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter
3. asteroid belt: the region of the solar system that is between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter and in which most of the asteroids orbit
4. meteoroid: a relatively small, rocky body that travels through space
5. meteorite: a meteoroid that reaches the Earth's surface without burning up completely
6. meteor: a bright streak of light that results when a meteoroid burns up in the Earth's atmosphere

Section Review

SECTION: OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

1. Sample answer: An astronomical unit is the average distance from Earth to the sun.
2. B
3. the telescope
4. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune
5. Sample answer: The surfaces of the inner planets are dense and rocky. The outer planets are extremely large and composed mostly of gases.
6. Use a ratio to calculate the relationship between the distance from Venus to the sun in light minutes and in astronomical units
   6 light-minutes ÷ XAU =
   8.3 light-minutes ÷ 1AU
   This fraction reduces to
   X = 6 light-minutes ÷
   8.3 light-minutes
   X = 0.7 AU

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