



Guided Reading Activity 2

The Earth in Space

Directions: Summarizing Read this section in your textbook to fill in the blanks below.

The inner planets are relatively (1) _____ and (2) _____, while the outer planets are (3) _____ and composed mostly or entirely of (4) _____. Each planet follows its own path, or (5) _____, around the sun. Earth takes about $365\frac{1}{4}$ days to make one (6) _____, or complete circuit, around the sun. As Earth orbits the sun, it (7) _____ on its axis, making one complete rotation every 24 (8) _____.

Because Earth is tilted on its axis, (9) _____ change as it orbits the sun. People in a hemisphere enjoy summer when they receive the (10) _____ rays of the sun. The summer solstice marks the day with the (11) _____ hours of sunlight. The winter solstice is the day with the (12) _____ hours of sunlight. (13) _____ occur twice a year, when day and night are of equal length.

Earth's temperatures also are affected by the sun. The sun's direct rays hit places in the (14) _____, so these low-latitude areas tend to be very warm. At (15) _____ latitudes near the North and South Poles, the sun's rays hit (16) _____; thus, temperatures are cool or cold there.