

Name _____

Inner vs. Outer Planets Answer Key

Inner Planets (Terrestrial):

1. Made mostly of solid rock
2. Includes the planet with life-supporting water (Earth)
3. Smaller in size and diameter
7. Shorter orbits (take less time to travel around the Sun)
10. Includes Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars

Outer Planets (Gas & Ice Giants):

4. Much colder and farther from the Sun
5. Includes planets with ring systems
6. Thick atmospheres made mostly of hydrogen and helium
8. Longer orbits (take many years to travel around the Sun)
9. Heavier gravity and larger in size

Bonus Challenge: Jupiter (it's the first of the outer planets after the Asteroid Belt)