

NEW HORIZONS

To Pluto and Beyond

<http://pluto.jhuapl.edu>



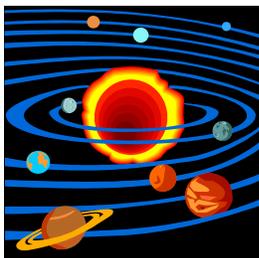
LAST YEAR ON PLUTO STUDENT ACTIVITY SHEET

The word “year” makes us think of many things that repeat like birthdays, special holidays, and starting a new grade in school. You may have wondered why a year is as long as it is, not shorter, nor longer. Or, why is winter in the US always in January and never in July? The answers to these questions can be found by knowing the astronomical meaning of a year. One year is the time it takes for a planet to travel once around the Sun. The time it takes Earth to revolve once around the Sun is 365 ¼ days, or one Earth year.

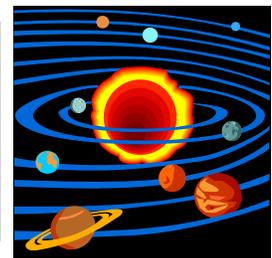
A couple of facts to know:

- 1. It takes a different amount of time for each planet to travel once around the Sun, so the length of one year on each planet is different.*
- 2. The closer a planet is to the Sun, the faster it travels.*
- 3. The distance traveled by planets close to the Sun is much shorter than the distance traveled by planets far away from the Sun.*

Now, use this information to figure out the length of a year on all of the planets.



12	1	165
0.6	0.2	2
247	84	29



1 Mercury Year =	Earth Years	1 Jupiter Year =	Earth Years
1 Venus Year =	Earth Years	1 Saturn Year =	Earth Years
1 Earth Year =	1 Earth Year	1 Uranus Year =	Earth Years
1 Mars Year =	Earth Years	1 Neptune Year =	Earth Years
		1 Pluto Year =	Earth Years



NEW HORIZONS

To Pluto and Beyond

<http://pluto.jhuapl.edu>



As you see, it takes some planets over a hundred Earth years to travel around the Sun once. Let's see what was happening on Earth one year ago on Pluto and some other distant planets!

Match the time on the left with the correct historical event on the right.

One year ago on Pluto...

...Women first earned the right to vote in the USA.

One year ago on Neptune...

...Viking spacecraft lands on Mars

One year ago on Uranus...

...Colonial America was starting to be annoyed with English rule. The American Revolution would soon follow.

One year ago on Saturn...

...The internet was starting to be widely used.

One year ago on Jupiter...

...Americans head west to settle the frontier.

