Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

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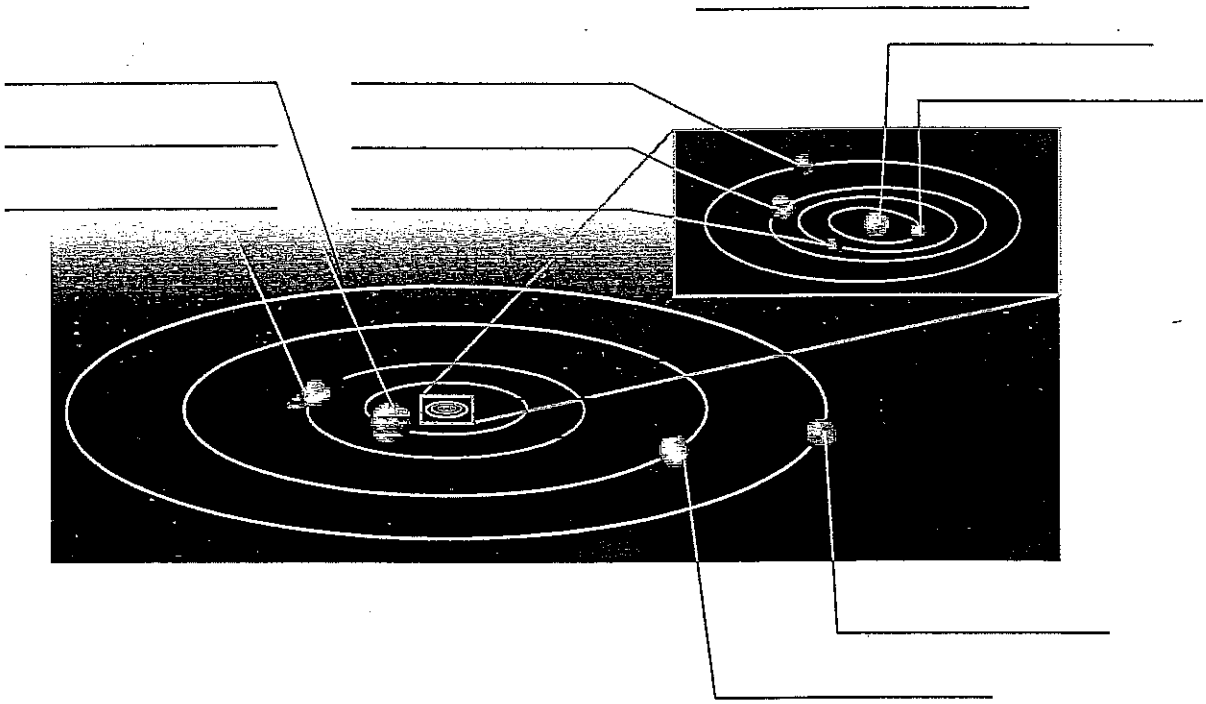
Content Practice A

LESSON 1

The Structure of the Solar System

Earth	inner planets	Jupiter	Mars
Mercury	Neptune	outer planets	Saturn
Sun	Uranus	Venus	

Directions: *Label this diagram by writing the correct term from the word bank on each line.*



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Lesson Outline

LESSON 2

The Inner Planets

A. Planets Made of Rock

1. The inner planets are those closest to the _____. They are also called the _____.

2. The inner planets are made of _____ and metallic materials.

3. The outer layers of the inner planets are in the _____ state.

B. Mercury

1. _____ is the planet closest to the Sun.

2. Mercury has no gases close to its surface, which means it has no _____.

a. Because of its small mass, Mercury's _____ is not strong enough to hold gases to its surface.

b. Because Mercury has no wind to move energy from place to place, the temperatures on the side of Mercury facing the Sun are always extremely _____.

3. Mercury's surface is covered with impact _____, smooth plains, and high cliffs.

4. Mercury has a core made of _____ and nickel. Its mantle is made of oxygen and _____.

C. Venus

1. _____ is the second planet from the Sun.

a. Venus _____ more slowly than it revolves, so a day on Venus is longer than a year on Earth.

b. Unlike most other planets, Venus rotates from _____ to _____.

2. Most of Venus's atmosphere is made up of _____.

a. Venus is covered by a thick layer of _____.

b. The clouds on Venus are made of _____.

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Lesson Outline continued

3. Venus is the _____ planet in the solar system.
   a. The high temperatures on Venus are caused by the _____.
   b. The greenhouse effect increases surface temperature because the _____ traps solar energy.
4. Most of the surface of Venus is covered by solidified _____.

D. Earth

1. The third planet from the Sun is _____.
2. Earth's atmosphere is made up of _____ and a mixture of gases.
   a. The atmosphere produces a(n) _____ that increases Earth's average surface temperature.
   b. _____ is supported on Earth because of its atmosphere, large bodies of liquid water, and moderate temperature range.
3. Earth has a solid inner core and a(n) _____ outer core. The _____ surrounds the outer core.
   a. Earth's crust is broken into large sliding _____.
   b. Earth's _____ is made mostly of oxygen and silicon.

E. Mars

1. Mars is the _____ planet from the Sun.
   a. Mars has _____ small moons.
   b. Many probes have examined the surface of Mars; most have looked for signs of _____.
2. Mars's atmosphere contains mostly _____.
3. Mars's surface appears to be red because its soil contains _____.
   a. Ice caps on Mars are made up of ice and frozen _____.
   b. Features on Mars's surface include craters, lava flows, canyons, and the largest known _____ in the solar system.

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Key Concept Builder

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LESSON 2

The Inner Planets

Key Concept How are the inner planets similar?

Directions: *Complete this table by putting a check mark under each planet that the characteristic applies to. The first two lines have been completed for you.*

Characteristic	Mercury	Venus	Earth	Mars
Has a solid outer layer	✓	✓	✓	✓
Has an atmosphere		✓	✓	✓
Has wind				
Has a surface that shows erosion				
Has a solid inner core				
Has a liquid outer core				
Has impact craters				
Has at least one moon				
Has an iron and nickel inner core				
Has a crust				
Has a mantle				
Has a surface temperature greater than 200°C				
Has a surface temperature less than 150°C				
Has liquid water on its surface				
Has lava on its surface				

Name:_____Period:_____Date:_____

The Inner Planets

Mercury	Venus
Earth	**Mars**