

 NEPTUNE

Read the fact file about the planet Neptune, then answer the questions below.

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1. How far away is Neptune from the Sun?

4,498,252,900km

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2. Find and copy a word that means *quickly*.

rapidly

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3. What was the largest storm on Neptune named?

Great Dark Spot

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4. Which god was the planet named after?

(The Roman god of) the sea

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5. Name the three gases that make up Neptune's atmosphere.

hydrogen

helium

methane

6. How many whole Earths could you fit inside Neptune?

57 (there would be some space left as it is 57.7 times bigger than Earth)

7. Why do you think that Neptune is the coldest planet in the solar system?

It is the furthest away from the Sun (and as the Sun heats the planets it would not get much of the Sun's heat).

8. Why do you think there has only been one space craft that has visited Neptune?

Answers should refer to the distance, the time it would take to get there, the amount of fuel that it would need or how they would control a space craft..

The planet is so far away, so it would take a very long time to reach Neptune..

Because it is so far away, it would need a lot of fuel to get there.

It would be very difficult to control a space craft that far away and for it to send images back.

9. Neptune was not discovered until 1846.

Why do you think this is?

There may not have been telescopes powerful enough before then and they may have seen it, but thought that it was another star.

10. Neptune would be an inhospitable place for humans.

Use the text to explain why this is the case.

Accept answers that refer to the: cold temperature, lack of oxygen, that you cannot stand on the surface and the fierce storms.