Super English



Unit 1 - Lesson 2 - The Universe

Vocabulary







atmosphere: (n) the layer of gases that surrounds a planet, such as Earth, and is held in place by the planet's gravity





Changes in the **atmosphere** can lead to different weather patterns on Earth.



radiation: (n) energy from heat or light that travels in waves, which at high levels can be very harmful to your health





Sunscreen helps protect your skin from the sun's harmful radiation.



rust: (n) a reddish-brown substance that forms on iron or steel when it reacts with water and oxygen over time





The old car had a lot of **rust** damage after being neglected for so long.



support: (v) to give someone money or physical things that are needed to live; to encourage, comfort, help, etc.





Plants need sunlight and water to support their growth.

Let's Read!





Mercury: Small but Extreme

Mercury is the smallest planet in the Solar System and the one closest to the Sun. It has no real atmosphere, so temperatures change fast—hot enough to melt metal during the day, but freezing cold at night. Its surface is covered in craters and looks a lot like the Moon. Mercury moves quickly, taking only 88 Earth days to go around the Sun. Scientists hope to explore it more, but its heat and distance make every space mission to Mercury a serious challenge.



- 1. What makes Mercury hard to explore?
- 2. What can Mercury teach us about planets without atmospheres?

Venus: Earth's Dangerous Twin



- 1. Why is Venus hotter than other planets?
- 2. Why do you think Venus turned out so different from Earth?

Venus is similar in size to Earth, but the conditions there are extreme. The atmosphere is thick with toxic clouds that trap heat, making Venus the hottest planet—hot enough to melt lead. The pressure on the surface is about 90 times stronger than Earth's. Even though it's full of volcanoes, valleys, and mountains, landing a spacecraft there is incredibly hard. Still, future missions hope to explore its surface and learn how it became so different from Earth, even though the two planets started out alike.

Grammar







might / may / could + be

We can also use 'might be,' 'may be,' and 'could be' to express possibilities or actions that could happen in the future

I might be flying to Chicago tonight.





He might be playing football later.

Let's Talk!







Dialogue 1: Mercury's Mood Swings

Ava: Mercury's wild—burning hot in the day, freezing at night.

Noah: Sounds like it can't decide what mood it's in.

Ava: Like a planet version of "I'm fine" with a nervous smile.

Noah: Also, it orbits the Sun super fast.

Ava: Same. I panic when I'm even 2 minutes late.

Noah: Mercury's living in fast-forward.

Question: Would you rather live somewhere that's too hot or too cold?

Exporing Words







Space words

Practice reading these 'space' words!

Kuiper

Heliosphere

Oort

Protostar

Photosphere

Planetary



Perihelion

Aphelion

Magnetosphere

Equinox

Solstice

Sidereal



See you next time!

