

Skill-Based Story Cards: Science

The Flesch-Kincaid Readability Scale was used to ensure that this product is at the desired reading level. Readability scales are useful as long as you realize their limitations. Results are approximate guidelines only, with a minimum error margin of (+ or -) a grade level. In other words, a story measured at a second grade readability level could easily be suitable for both first and third graders. Another limitation is that two different readability scales can be applied to the same sample, yet yield widely varied results.

In spite of the inexact nature of readability scales, we at Remedia use them because they measure word and sentence length, both valid predictors of readability. At the same time, we realize that these scales are not designed to measure every other factor affecting each grade level. What is first-grade material in one school may be second-grade material in another. At Remedia, we strive to take all these factors into consideration as we develop new products. We leave the rest in your capable hands.

***Please note:** Due to the nature of the content in *Skill-Based Story Cards: Science*, some of the stories contain more difficult words. These words, as well as some proper nouns, were eliminated from such stories when determining the reading level. An asterisk appears by the reading level of those stories. Please make sure to read through the stories before giving them to students and review any words you think students will have difficulty with.

Skill-Based Story Cards: Science

| <u>TITLE</u> | <u>CARD#</u> | <u>READING LEVEL</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Volcanoes..... | 1..... | 3.9 |
| Storms | 2..... | 3.0* |
| Earthquakes..... | 3..... | 3.0 |
| Floods | 4..... | 3.5 |
| Hurricanes..... | 5..... | 4.0* |
| Tsunamis..... | 6..... | 4.0* |
| Tornadoes..... | 7..... | 3.4 |
| Blizzards | 8..... | 3.5 |
| Avalanches | 9..... | 3.9 |
| Forest Fires | 10..... | 3.9* |
| The Sun's Family..... | 11..... | 4.0 |
| Sun..... | 12..... | 3.0 |
| Mercury..... | 13..... | 3.5* |
| Venus | 14..... | 3.8 |
| Earth..... | 15..... | 3.9 |
| Mars..... | 16..... | 3.5 |
| Jupiter..... | 17..... | 3.3 |
| Saturn..... | 18..... | 3.2 |
| Uranus | 19..... | 3.4* |
| Neptune | 20..... | 3.9* |
| Pluto..... | 21..... | 3.9* |
| Moon | 22..... | 3.2 |
| Constellations..... | 23..... | 3.8* |
| Meteroids | 24..... | 3.8* |
| The Giant Panda | 25..... | 4.0* |
| The Grizzly..... | 26..... | 3.9* |
| The Giraffe | 27..... | 3.4* |
| The Llama..... | 28..... | 3.4 |
| The Moose | 29..... | 3.4 |
| The Mandrill..... | 30..... | 3.9 |
| The Jaguar | 31..... | 4.0* |
| The Peccary..... | 32..... | 3.4* |
| The Beaver | 33..... | 3.5 |
| The Porcupine | 34..... | 3.8* |
| The Blue Whale..... | 35..... | 2.9 |
| The Crocodile..... | 36..... | 3.5* |
| The Alligator..... | 37..... | 3.8 |
| The Gila Monster..... | 38..... | 3.8* |
| The Tortoise | 39..... | 3.3 |
| The Reed Frog | 40..... | 3.0 |
| The Cobra..... | 41..... | 3.9* |
| The Boa Constrictor..... | 42..... | 3.9* |
| The Butterfly | 43..... | 4.0* |
| The Ladybug..... | 44..... | 3.7* |
| The Tarantula | 45..... | 3.2* |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| absorb | take in; soak up |
| along | over the length of something |
| antlers | growths made of horn on the heads of certain animals |
| astronomers | scientists who study the universe and the objects in it |
| atmosphere | the gases that surround a heavenly body and are held by gravity |
| avoid | keep away from |
| axis | a straight line around which an object rotates |
| backfire | a controlled fire started in the path of an uncontrolled fire in order to make the uncontrolled fire stop |
| bamboo | a tall grass with hollow stems |
| barbed | having a sharp point like a fish hook |
| barriers | objects that block something |
| bleating | a hoarse, broken cry |
| blowhole | a hole for breathing on the top of a whale's head |
| burrows | holes or tunnels dug in the ground by a small animal |
| camouflage | a way of hiding or disguising for protection |
| canyon | a deep, narrow valley with high walls cut into the earth by water |
| cling | hold tight |
| cluster | a group of similar things growing or grouped together |
| coarse | not smooth; rough |
| coiling | winding into spirals or loops |
| cold-blooded | having a body temperature that changes to the temperature of its surroundings |
| collapsed | fell down or inward suddenly |
| concluded | decided |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| constant | not changing; staying the same |
| continents | the seven large land masses on Earth |
| craters | large bowl-shaped holes at the tops of volcanoes |
| crops | groups of plants grown at the same time |
| dam | a barrier built across a waterway to control the flow of water |
| dens | the places where wild animals live |
| devastating | destroying |
| diameter | the length of a straight line that passes through the center of a circle from one side to the other |
| dormant | not active |
| emit | let off or out |
| endangered | caused to be almost extinct |
| environments | the things around a living being that affect the way it grows and develops |
| fatal | able to cause death |
| firebreak | a strip of land that is used to keep fires from forming |
| fluid | something that flows easily and takes on the shape of its container |
| fraction | a part of something |
| funnel | an object with a wide opening at one end and a tube at the other used for pouring liquids into containers with small mouths |
| glistens | shines with sparkly, reflected light |
| gravity | the natural force that causes objects to move toward the center of the earth |
| grizzled | streaked with or partly gray |
| grooming | cleaning and brushing |
| heavenly | of or relating to the heavens or skies |
| hibernation | spending the winter in a state that looks like a deep sleep |

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| hind | near the rear or back |
| inborn | present since birth |
| instinct | an inner feeling or a way of behaving that happens naturally |
| international | of or between two or more nations |
| legends | stories handed down from earlier times that are believed to be true |
| limbs | parts of the body that come from the head or trunk |
| mammals | warm-blooded animals that have a backbone, hair or fur, and are able to produce milk |
| marshes | areas of low-lying land full of moisture |
| mass | a measure of the amount of matter contained in a body |
| moisture | wetness |
| observatory | a building or room designed for watching and studying things |
| orbits | travels around another body |
| pack animals | animals used to carry large loads |
| paralyze | make unable to move or feel |
| particles | very small pieces of matter |
| pattern | a combination of things that are repeated |
| predators | animals that eat other animals |
| pressure | the amount of force on an area |
| prevent | keep from happening |
| prey | an animal hunted and killed for food |
| range | the numbers inbetween the highest and lowest numbers given |
| reflects | throws or bends back light from a surface |
| resemble | look or be like something |
| ringlets | tiny rings |

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| rotation | the act of turning around a center or axis |
| rovers | things that wander |
| sac | part of an animal or plant that looks like a small bag |
| scattered | caused to separate and go in different directions |
| shifts | moves |
| sieve | a tool with small holes used to separate things |
| source | a place or thing from which something comes |
| spiral | a curve that winds around a fixed center at a distance that is always getting larger or smaller |
| surge | a powerful wave or set of waves |
| swamps | low-lying regions sometimes covered in water |
| swiftly | quickly |
| system | something formed by parts that work together |
| tassels | bunches of loose threads bound at one end and hanging free at the other |
| terrarium | a small, closed area in which plants or small animals are kept for study |
| tidal waves | the swells or crests of the ocean's surface that are created by tides |
| tusks | long, pointed teeth coming outside the mouths of some animals |
| unusual | not common |
| updraft | a current of air that floats upward |
| visible | able to be seen |
| watertight | so tightly made that water cannot come in or go out |

Animals

Use what you learned in the **Animals** stories to solve each riddle.

1. I am black and white and love to eat bamboo.

What am I?

2. I am a member of the camel family. People use me to carry supplies. **What am I?**

3. I am a large, spotted cat that lives in Central Mexico and South America. **What am I?**

4. I am a rodent that uses my quills for protection.

What am I?

5. I am a cold-blooded animal that has a rounded nose and lives in swamps. **What am I?**

6. I am a small animal that clings to tall, slender grasses when I hop out of the water. **What am I?**

7. I am an insect that has four stages to my life cycle.

What am I?

8. I am the tallest animal in the world.

What am I?

9. I am an animal that looks like a wild pig. I am also called a javelina. **What am I?**

10. I am a poisonous lizard that lives in the deserts of the southwestern United States and Mexico.

What am I?

Natural Disasters

Use what you learned from reading the Natural Disasters stories to answer each question.

1. What creates a tsunami? _____

2. What is a white-out? _____

3. Name the three things that must be present for a tornado to form. _____

4. Why do we see lightning flash before we hear thunder crash? _____

5. What are most forest fires caused by? _____

6. Name one step people can take to prevent damage caused by floods. _____

7. When does a storm over warm, tropical oceans become a hurricane? _____

8. How do scientists try to predict when earthquakes will strike? _____

9. Name two things that can make snow unstable and cause an avalanche. _____

10. When do volcanoes form? _____

Solar System

Shade in the circle next to the correct answer.

- Saturn is famous for its _____.
 (A) moons
 (B) rings
 (C) seasons
- Which planet spins on its side?
 (A) Uranus
 (B) Saturn
 (C) Neptune
- What is Jupiter's Great Red Spot?
 (A) a volcano
 (B) a rainbow
 (C) a huge storm system
- Pluto is a _____.
 (A) major planet
 (B) dwarf planet
 (C) rocky planet
- _____ of Earth is water.
 (A) Two-thirds
 (B) Three-fourths
 (C) One-fourth
- Which heavenly body has craters on its surface?
 (A) Jupiter
 (B) the moon
 (C) the sun
- The sun is a _____.
 (A) planet
 (B) star
 (C) comet
- What is a constellation?
 (A) a group of stars that forms a pattern
 (B) a group of planets that forms a pattern
 (C) a group of asteroids that forms a pattern
- How many planets are in the solar system?
 (A) 9
 (B) 39
 (C) 8
- Which of the following is a small chunk of rock in space?
 (A) asteroid
 (B) comet
 (C) meteoroid

Solar System

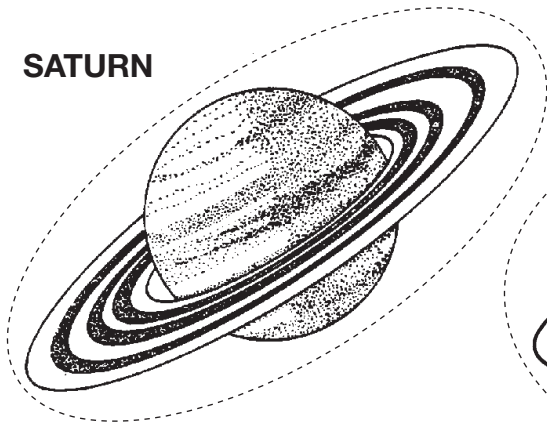
What a mess there would be in outer space if the planets got out of sequence! Well imagine it happened. Can you use the clues to get them back where they belong?

Read each clue. Cut out the planets, and use glue to put them in the correct orbital path on page 5.

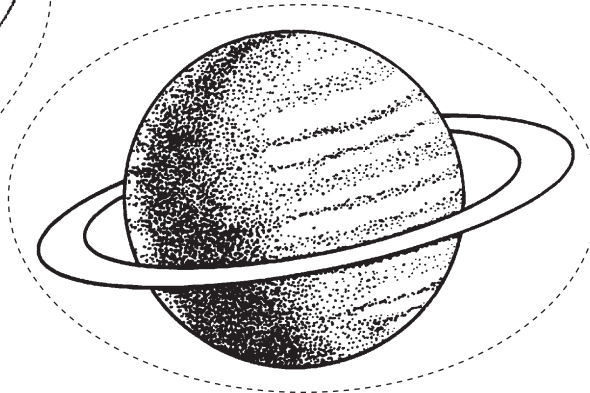
Clues

1. Venus is between Earth and Mercury.
2. The largest planet is in the fifth orbit from the sun.
3. Mars' orbit is next to Earth's orbit.
4. Mercury is closest to the sun.
5. Saturn's orbit is between Jupiter and Uranus.
6. Neptune is the planet farthest from the sun.
7. The planet that spins on its side is in the fourth orbit from Earth.

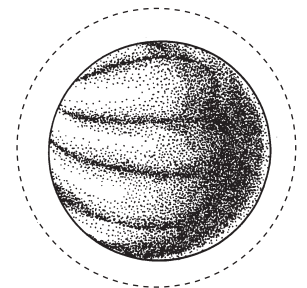
SATURN



JUPITER



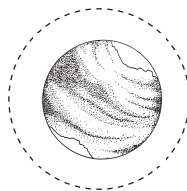
NEPTUNE



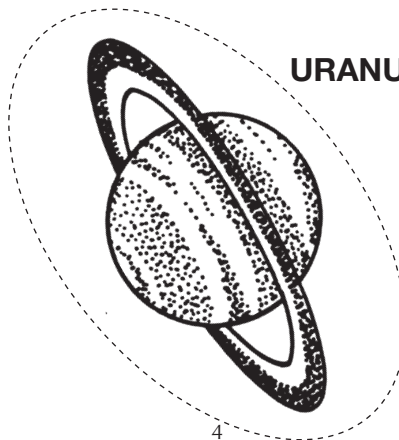
EARTH



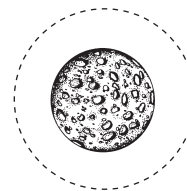
MARS



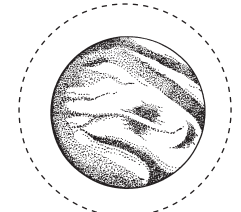
URANUS



MERCURY



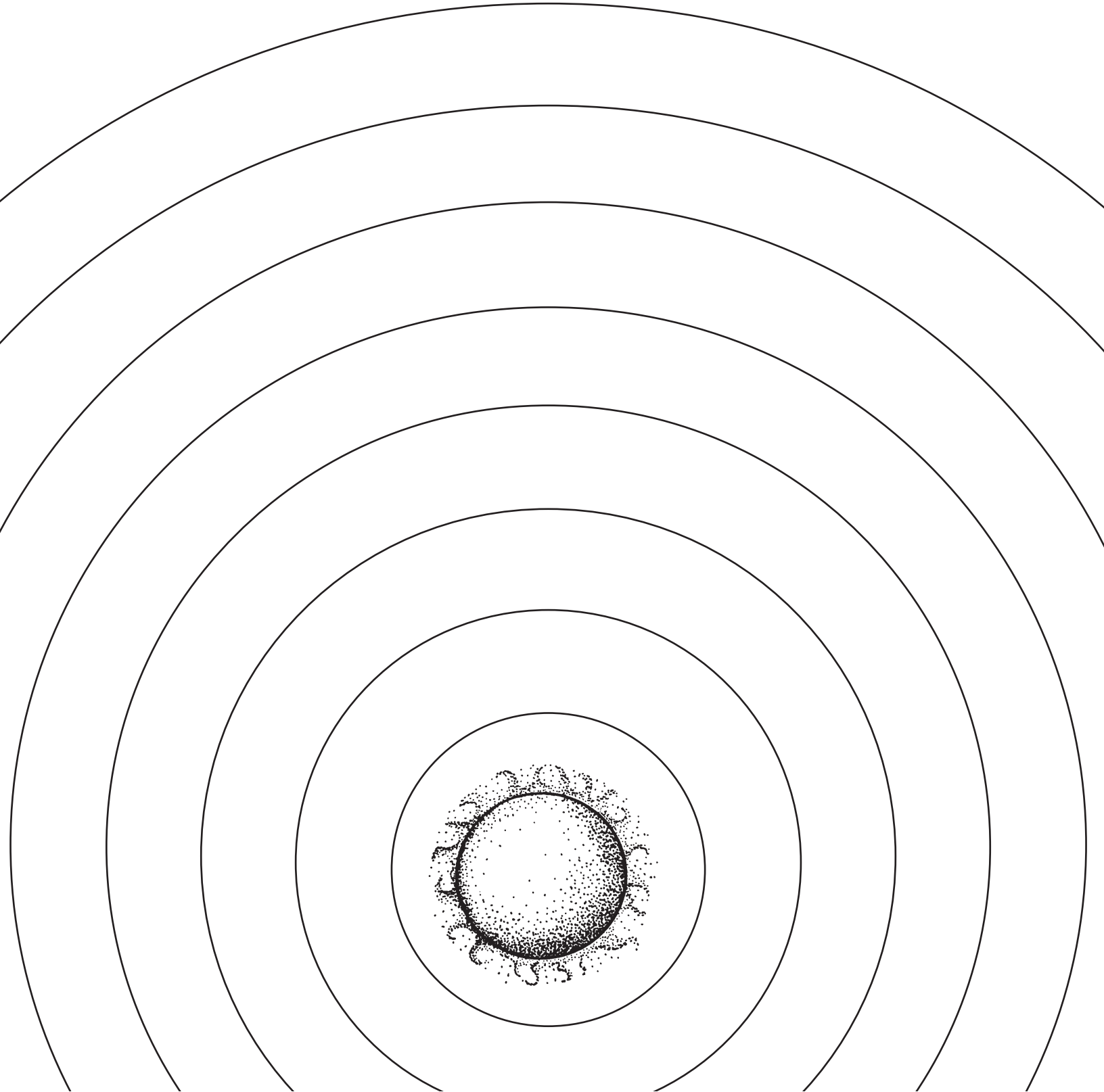
VENUS



Name _____

Planet Order

Solar System



Page 1

1. giant panda
2. llama
3. jaguar
4. porcupine
5. alligator
6. reed frog
7. butterfly
8. giraffe
9. peccary
10. Gila monster

Page 2

1. a sudden movement in the ocean floor
2. an extreme form of a blizzard; when the snowfall is so great that it is impossible to tell the difference between the ground and the air
3. a big thunderstorm, winds blowing from opposite directions, and a strong updraft
4. Light moves faster than sound.
5. people; campfires, cigarettes, and arson
6. use sandbags along the edge of a river; stop building in danger zones; make stronger dams
7. when the wind speed of the storm reaches 74 miles per hour
8. by measuring movement in the earth's crust and checking the heat inside the ground
9. heavy winds, melting snow, earthquakes, or loud noises
10. when pressure builds underground

Page 3

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. B
7. B
8. A
9. C
10. C

Page 5

Planet order from the sun:

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune

Performance Objective Correlations:

- Answer questions based on information given
- Compare and contrast ideas
- Demonstrate understanding of words and ideas
- Expand vocabulary
- Find relevant facts
- Locate the answer
- Read for details
- Understand cause and effect
- Understand the meaning of words and ideas
- Use fine-motor skills to cut and paste
- Use glossary skills
- Use logic to solve problems