Lesson Activity for Grade 6

(*Science*: Windows to the Universe: Solar System Formation)

Student Name:_____

INSTRUCTIONS

Our **solar system** is billions of years old, and contains many planetary bodies. But how was it formed and what's in it exactly? This lesson will take a closer look at our solar system.

1. Starting from the Grade 6 StudentLink menu, click on **"Science"**.
2. Next, click on **"Windows: Universe"** under the "Sky and Space" column.
3. Then click on 

and then **"Solar System Formation"**.

How many planets make-up the solar system? _____

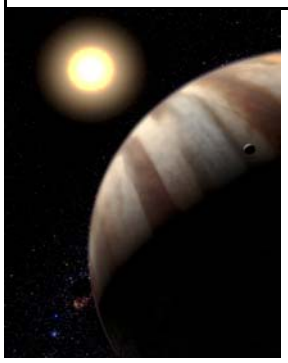
Try naming them off the top of your head and see how well you do:

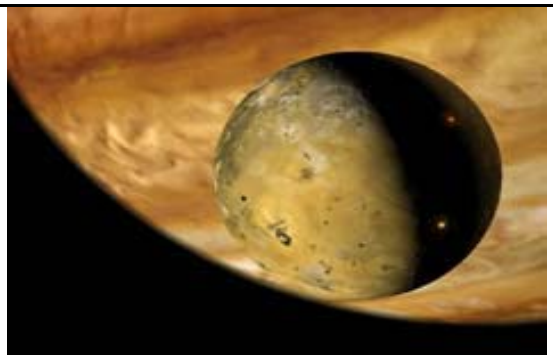
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.

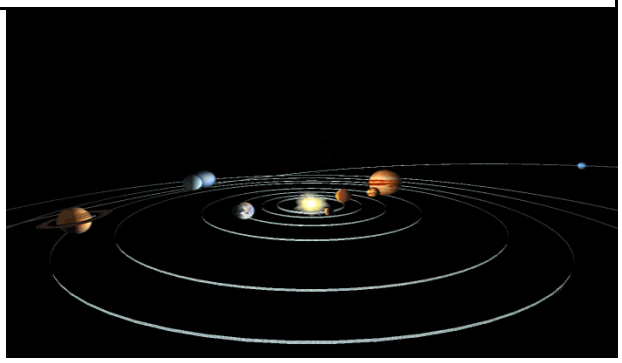
So how did the solar system get to where it is today? Click on formation to learn more…

The waves in space caused the formation of _____.

How did the planets form? How did the sun form?







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By studying these space bodies left-over from the creation of the Solar System, scientists can determine how old the Solar System really is:

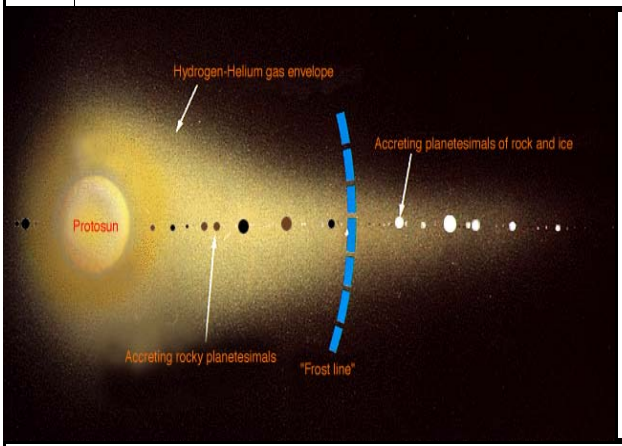
_____. They estimate it is _____ years old.

4. The description discusses a spinning nebula that eventually created the solar system. How did this happen? Let's find out by clicking on spin…

What two elements formed the basis of the solar system?
1.
2.

The description uses an analogy about a flattening of the solar system material in the spin like pizza dough being flattened. Can you come up with your own analogy?

5. And how exactly did the planets get to be how they are and where they are? First click on protoplanets and read the description. As it turns out planets had to compete for amongst each other for material! Now click on position...



What affected the position of the planets the most in the new solar system? Why do you think this is?

Why were the rocky planets closer to the sun and the largest gas planets further away?

Why do you think it's important that the Earth is in the position it's in?