

Do the preparation task first to help you with the difficult vocabulary. Then read the article and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

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|-----------------------|---|
| 1..... NASA | a. a very important element for life on Earth. It is present in our bodies, plants and in diamonds. |
| 2..... heat signature | b. turned the other way round |
| 3..... carbon | c. the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the USA which is responsible for space research |
| 4..... solar system | d. the unique amount of heat which comes from something |
| 5..... graphite | e. the Sun, the eight planets and their moons |
| 6..... reversed | f. the black substance in a pencil which you write with |

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|----|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | The planet Earth has the same amount of oxygen as carbon. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | Scientists studied the amount of heat coming from the 'diamond planet'. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | The new planet has a very different composition from the planets in our solar system. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | The discovery of the new planet has led scientists to think that there may be more kinds of planets in the universe than they thought. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | The rocks on Earth are rich in carbon and diamonds. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | Scientists have observed a strange planet with black rocks and a sticky liquid instead of water. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your understanding: gap fill

Read the text and write the correct form of the word in brackets to complete the gaps. Look at the example at the beginning of the text.

Scientists have recently made a very interesting *DISCOVERY* (**DISCOVER**). They have found a new planet which is extremely hot. The first _____ (**OBSERVE**) of the planet was made using NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope. Scientists have the _____ (**ABLE**) to detect the amount of heat coming from a planet and from this they can know what the planet is made of. The new planet has some _____ (**SIMILAR**) to the planet Jupiter, but it also has a _____ (**COMPLETE**) different composition from planets in our solar system. The new planet has more carbon than oxygen which is _____ (**LIKE**) any of the planets near Earth. This has led scientists to use their _____ (**IMAGINE**) and to think that there is a _____ (**POSSIBLE**) of a diamond planet existing. This diamond planet could have a very strange _____ (**APPEAR**).

Discussion

How interested are you in outer space?

Do you think that there may be life on other planets?

I am interested in outer space because ...

I think that ...

I don't think that ...

Vocabulary Box

Write any new words you have learnt in this lesson.