Name: _____ Date: _____

Uranus Rolls Like a Ball

Circle group

Most planets spin like tops. They stand fairly straight up as they turn. Uranus is not like that. It is tipped over on its side. It spins like a ball that rolls on the ground.

No one is sure why Uranus is tipped. Some scientists think a big space rock hit it long ago. They are not sure.

Uranus is cold and far away. It is a pale blue-green. It has thin rings and many moons.

Uranus is so far from the sun that it is hard to see. You need a telescope to see it well.

Questions

1. How is Uranus tipped?

_____

_____

2. What color is Uranus?

_____

_____

3. What does Uranus have around it?

_____

_____

4. What do you need to see Uranus well?

_____

_____

5. Why do scientists say they are not sure how Uranus got tipped?

_____

_____

Words to know

tipped: leaning over to one side
scientists: people who study how the world works
pale: light in color, not bright
telescope: a tool that makes faraway things look close

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Uranus Rolls Like a Ball

Triangle group

Most planets spin like tops, standing fairly straight up as they turn. Uranus is different. It is tipped over on its side. It spins like a ball rolling along the ground.

No one is sure why Uranus is tilted so far. Some scientists think a big space rock may have hit it long ago, but they cannot say for certain.

Uranus is a cold, faraway planet. It is a pale blue-green color. It has thin rings around it, and it has many moons.

Uranus is so far from the sun that it is very hard to see. You need a telescope to look at it well.

Questions

1. How is Uranus tipped?

_____

_____

2. What color is Uranus?

_____

_____

3. What does Uranus have around it?

_____

_____

4. What do you need to look at Uranus well?

_____

_____

5. Why do scientists say they cannot be sure how Uranus got tipped?

_____

_____

Words to know

tipped: leaning over to one side
scientists: people who study how the world works
pale: light in color, not bright

telescope: a tool that makes faraway things look close

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Uranus Rolls Like a Ball

Square group

Most planets spin like tops, standing fairly upright as they turn. Uranus is strikingly different. It is tipped over on its side, so it spins like a ball rolling along the ground.

Nobody is certain why Uranus is tilted so far. Some scientists suspect that a huge space rock may have crashed into it long ago, but they cannot say for sure.

Uranus is a cold, distant planet with a pale blue-green color. It is circled by thin rings, and it has many moons.

Because Uranus is so far from the sun, it is very difficult to see. You need a telescope to get a good look at it.

Questions

1. How is Uranus tipped compared with most planets?

_____

_____

2. What color is Uranus?

_____

_____

3. What circles Uranus?

_____

_____

4. What do you need in order to get a good look at Uranus?

_____

_____

5. Why do scientists say they cannot be certain how Uranus became tilted?

_____

_____

Words to know

tipped: leaning over to one side
scientists: people who study how the world works
pale: light in color, not bright
telescope: a tool that makes faraway things look close

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Uranus Rolls Like a Ball

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Uranus Rolls Like a Ball

Easier · 98 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.2

1. It is tipped over on its side.
2. A pale blue-green.
3. Thin rings.
4. A telescope.
5. They only have an idea, and no one has proof that a space rock hit it.

Triangle: Uranus Rolls Like a Ball

This passage · 107 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.3

1. It is tipped over on its side.
2. A pale blue-green.
3. Thin rings.
4. A telescope.
5. They have only an idea, and no one has proof that a space rock hit it.

Square: Uranus Rolls Like a Ball

Harder · 110 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.1

1. It is tipped over on its side.
2. A pale blue-green.
3. Thin rings.
4. A telescope.
5. They only suspect a space rock hit it, and they have no proof.