

VISIT TO A STRANGE PLANET —

What to do

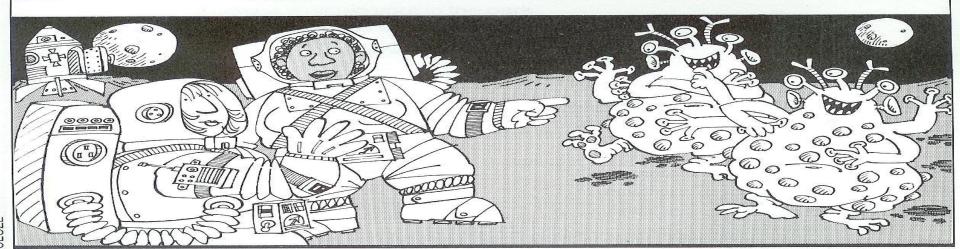
Find the missing words.

Two 1 from Earth landed on a strange planet. The strange 2 who lived there came out to meet them. The spacewomen were a bit 3.

But the creatures were very 4. They took the women to their 5. They gave them some food. The women laughed when they saw the creatures eating. They used two 6. and two forks at once! They ate two different kinds of food at the same time.

The spacewomen had brought some gifts from Earth. When they gave them to the creatures they laughed. The explorers had brought some gloves and some pullovers. The gloves were no use because the creatures only had 7 fingers on each hand. The were useless because all the creatures had four arms.

One of the creatures went back to 9 with the spacewomen. The creature took part in the Olympic Games. The crowd laughed when they saw the creature 10 a javelin, a shot, a hammer and discus all at the same time! The creature won four gold medals.



VENUS

Venus - the twin of Earth?

Venus is the second planet from the sun. It was once believed to be a twin of Earth, as it is closest of the other planets to Earth in both diameter and distance. The thick, cloudy atmosphere led scientists to believe that it could be like Earth in the Carboniferous era. They imagined a planet covered with dense rain forests, and possibly with the same kind of life forms that inhabited Earth millions of years ago: amphibians, reptiles or even dinosaurs!

Unfortunately, the unmanned space probe, Mariner 5, showed Venus to be a 'pressure cooker' planet, choked by clouds of sulphuric acid. These clouds revolve around the planet giving the V-shaped patterns in its appearance. The atmosphere retains so much heat that the surface temperature is hot enough to melt lead. Venus is so hostile to life that it would bake you, crush you or dissolve you in seconds! So, far from being Earth's twin, Venus is very different, and a much less promising destination for a manned space flight than Mars.

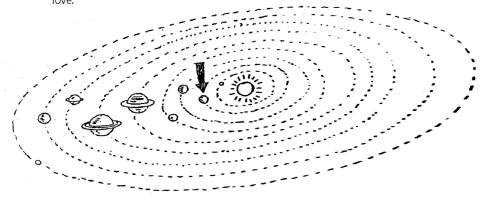
The landscape of Venus

However, the American and Soviet space probes have taught us a great deal about the planet and, despite the thick clouds, the surface has been mapped. The main features are two huge uplands like our continents

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Venus is permanently covered in clouds.

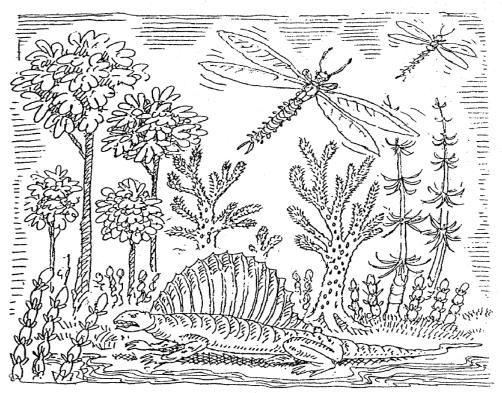
except they are not surrounded by water. These are called Aphrodite Terra and Ishtar Terra. The names are interesting, because they are the names of lovegoddesses from different cultures. Venus was the Roman goddess of love, Aphrodite the Greek goddess of love, and Ishtar the Babylonian goddess of love.



Venus is the second planet from the sun.

Looking for Venus

Venus is one of the easiest planets to see as it is the brightest object in the sky after the sun and moon – it can even cast a shadow! So, why not go out tonight and see it for yourself? Don't waste your time looking at it through a telescope, though – all you will see are those thick white clouds of sulphuric acid!



Earth in the Carboniferous era.

DATA COMPARISON TABLE

	VENUS	EARTH
DIAMETER	12 104km	12 756km
ROTATIONAL PERIOD	243.02 days	23.94 hours
MASS	.815	1.00
ESCAPE VELOCITY	10.73km per second	11.31km per second
MAX TEMPERATURE	+ 480°C	+ 58°C
MIN TEMPERATURE	+ 470°C	−89°C
DISTANCE FROM SUN	108 million km	150 million km
NUMBER OF MOONS	0	1

READING COMPREHENSION

PART A

- What did scientists think Venus was like before the Mariner 5 probe?
- What were their reasons for believing this?
- What did Mariner 5 show Venus was really like?
- Why is Venus not a 'promising destination' for a manned flight?
- What are the main features of the surface of Venus?
- What is interesting about the names of these features?
- Why is it not worth looking at Venus through a telescope?

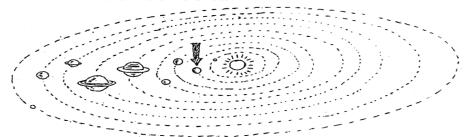
PART B

- Imagine you are an astronomer in the 1950s (before Mariner 5 showed us what Venus is really like). Write a description of what you think the first human explorers might find on the surface of the planet using the picture as a source of ideas.
- Write a paragraph of description from the information given in the table. The first sentence is given below as an example:

'The diameter of Venus is 12 104km, which is only slightly smaller than Earth which has a diameter of 12 756km.'

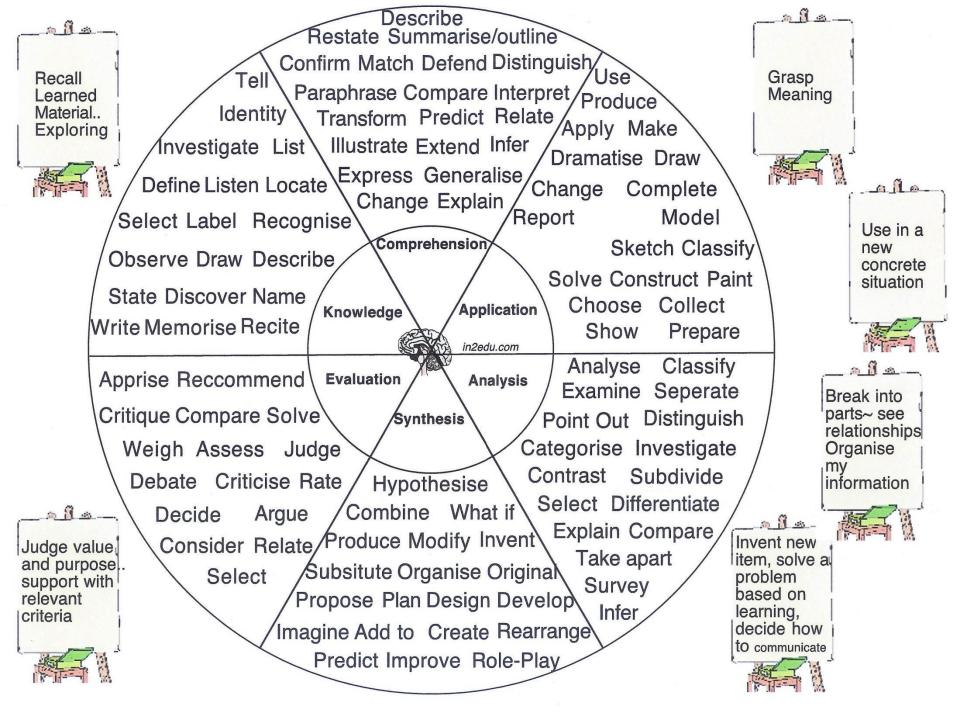
PART C

- Look at the information in the table. Do you think it would be possible for humans to land on the surface if they went in specially made vehicles, or do you think it would be impossible?
- Examine the table. What are the similarities between Earth and Venus and what are the differences?



Alternative Evidence Task

Look again at paragraph 2
Pair read + highlight information
Which explains why Venus is not
A good destination for a manned
Space flight. Then draw and
Label a landing module specially
designed to cope with Venus



Draw a picture of what the story is about in the middle of a blank page.

On thick branches write such words as: WHEN (time of action),

WHERE (place of action),

CHARACTERS (names of people/animals),

EVENTS (most important things that happened).

If you want, you may add branches with such words as THEME and 'OPINION'.

On thin branches write details connected with the key words.

"JACK'S NEW AEROPLANE"

Jack and Richard were cousins. They were also very good friends and they liked playing together.

One day, in the middle of summer, Jack came to Richard and brought with him his new toy, a remote controlled aeroplane! It was quite big, painted with silver paint and had some red pictures on the tail.

The boys were very excited and decided to go to the garden to fly the plane straight away.

They had a lot of fun. The plane was fantastic! It flew quite high and made some funny noises when landing.

It was Richard's turn to fly the plane. In his excitement he pressed a button on the remote control very hard and the plane flew high, very high, and landed on the top of a tree! Richard found a long stick and tried to get the plane down. But the stick was not long enough. Then Jack thought of something else: he started shaking the tree hard, very hard, and in the end the plane fell to the ground with a big bang.

Jack picked up the plane, and Richard ... picked up a broken wing... Oh dear!...

Both boys were very upset and very angry at the same time. Jack blamed Richard for flying the plane too high, and Richard blamed Jack for shaking the tree too hard...

In the end they both agreed that getting angry and blaming each other was not going to help.

They took the plane and its broken wing, and went home to find some glue.

