

The Solar System ▪ *Review and Reinforce*

The Outer Planets

Understanding Main Ideas

Answer the following question in the spaces provided.

1. What are the five outer planets?

2. Which planets are the gas giants?

3. What are the two main differences between Pluto and the gas giants?

4. Why doesn't the gas on a gas giant escape into space, as it has on Mercury?

5. What object in the solar system has a composition similar to that of the gas giants? _____

6. What planet is by far the most massive of all the planets that revolve around the sun? _____

7. What are Saturn's rings made of? _____

8. How did astronomers know where to look to discover Neptune?

9. Why do astronomers sometimes consider Pluto and its moon, Charon, to be a double planet?

Building Vocabulary

10. Define *gas giant*.

11. What is a *ring*?
