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# **Exploration of the Solar System**

## **By Miguel Hernando**

### **Chelsea High School**

[Link to Chatroom](#)

This will be a paper and pencil event. Students will be required to answer 50 questions about the Solar System and its exploration. Topics covered by the questions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Types of celestial motion (rotation, precession, orbit, etc.)
- Names and characteristics of the planets and its moons; how to identify them in the night sky and in photographs.
- History of the exploration of the planets
- Types of telescopes and the physical principles behind them
- Characteristics of the sun
- Asteroids and comets

Questions may be multiple choice, or require students to answer with a word or phrase.

Questions may include visual material, like pictures or graphs, that students need to interpret to answer the question correctly. The following are examples of questions:

1. What is the planet whose year is only two days long?  
(Answer: Mercury)
2. What is the name of the first spaceship to land on Venus and transmit information from the surface?  
(Answer: Venera 7, launched in 1970 by the USSR)
3. Sunspots are dark spots that can be observed on the surface of the sun.  
Are they hotter or colder than the material around them?  
(Answer: Colder)

Many resources can be used to get prepared for this event. Any astronomy guide (like the Audubon Guide to the night sky) contains a lot of information on the solar system. NASA maintains an informational website, and some astronomy magazines (like Astronomy) do as well. In addition, some magazines like Discover and National Geographic also publish articles on the subject. All of these sources may be considered to formulate questions for the event. Questions can be posted to the website and will be answered promptly.

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