

Name _____

Venus: Earth's Mysterious Neighbor

Short Answer Key

1. Venus's atmosphere is mainly composed of carbon dioxide, with traces of nitrogen and sulfur dioxide. It is inhospitable for humans due to its extreme heat, toxic atmosphere, and high atmospheric pressure, which would instantly crush most spacecraft and equipment.
2. Venus rotates in the opposite direction to most planets, including Earth. The Sun rises in the west and sets in the east on Venus.
3. One significant surface feature on Venus is Maxwell Montes, which is a high mountain range that is even taller than Mount Everest on Earth. It is important because it showcases Venus's geological activity.
4. The clouds in Venus's atmosphere consist of sulfuric acid droplets. They reflect sunlight, giving Venus its bright appearance in the sky.
5. Scientists continue to study Venus to understand its unique characteristics, its history, and the processes that turned it into a hot, inhospitable planet. Studying Venus can provide insights into planetary evolution and climate change.

