

Enc. 1 – The Solar System

What is the solar system? It is our sun and everything that travels around it. Our solar system is elliptical in shape. That means it is shaped like an egg. The sun is in the centre of the solar system. Our solar system is always in motion. Nine planets and their moons, along with comets, asteroids and other space objects orbit the sun. Astronomers think that the solar system is more than four billion years old.

The Planets

A planet is a large space object which revolves around a star. It reflects that star's light. Nine planets have been discovered in our solar system. Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars are the planets closest to the sun. They are called the inner planets. The inner planets are made mostly of rock. The outer planets are Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. The first four are large balls of gases with rings around them. Pluto is the furthest planet from the sun.

Exercise

Read the text and circle TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

1.	Our solar system is shaped like an egg	T	F
2.	The sun is the smallest object in our solar system	T	F
3.	The sun is in the centre of the solar system	T	F
4.	Planets and comets orbit the sun	T	F
5.	The solar system is more than four million years old	T	F

The Planets

1.	A planet revolves around a star	T	F
2.	Ten planets have been discovered in our solar system	T	F
3.	The inner planets are closest to the sun	T	F
4.	The outer planets are made of rock	T	F
5.	Saturn and Neptune have rings around them	T	F

Adesso elenchi le parole nel testo che conoscevi o che sei riuscito a capire dal contesto e dalle tue conoscenze sull'argomento.

Ora elenchi le parole che non sei proprio riuscito a capire e che hanno impedito la tua comprensione

Quale strategia hai usato per capire il testo? E' stata efficace?

Enc. 2 – Matching Science Terms

Match the Italian and English words regarding the weather, the climate, the seasons and the solar system

1.	Ice
2.	Axis
3.	Rings
4.	Moon
5.	Seasons
6.	Breeze
7.	Climate
8.	Pattern
9.	Dry
10.	Sleet
11.	Hurricane
12.	Hail
13.	Air pressure
14.	Surface
15.	Wet
16.	Tilt
17.	Heat
18.	Thunder
19.	Mixture
20.	Cycle
21.	Light
22.	Earth
23.	Dark

Bagnato
Grandine
Schema, modello
Inclinazione, inclinare
Tuono
Terra
Buio, scuro
Combinazione
Calore, riscaldare
Stagioni
Ghiaccio
Ciclo
Luce, leggero
Asse
Brezza
Anelli
Luna
Clima
Secco
Nevischio
Uragano
Pressione dell'aria
Superficie

Enc. 3 – The Sun

The sun is a yellow star, that is, a second generation star. It contains elements from the explosion of another star. A star's colour depends on its temperature. Inside its nucleus, a complex process transforms hydrogen into helium, thus producing an enormous amount of energy. The temperature inside the nucleus can be 15 million degrees.

The sun's surface is very hot (about 6,000 degrees) and sometimes there are terrible eruptions which can form a big arch called a protuberance. There are also sun spots on the surface. Our sun is the only star in our solar system, but not in the universe. Our planet revolves around the sun. Astronomers think that the solar system is more than 4 or 5 billion years old.

Complete the sentences

(only the part below was given to the other three groups)

1. The sun's nucleus produces an enormous amount of.....
2. Inside the nucleus it is very
3. The sun is the onlyin our solar system but not in the universe.
4. The sun is considered a second generation star because it containsfrom the explosion of another star.
5. 5 After a solar eruption a big arch called ais formed.

Enc. 4 – The Seasons

During its orbit around the sun, the axis of the Earth is tilted (è inclinato) at 23.5°. The angle of the sun's rays creates the difference in climate. Summer and Winter happen at opposite times of the year in the Northern and Southern hemispheres. In summer it is warmer because the sun's rays reach the Earth at a more direct angle and because there are more hours of daylight. Winter happens when that part of the Earth's surface is tilted away from the sun. There are fewer daylight hours. On June 21st the day is longer than the night (summer solstice) and on December 21st (winter solstice) the night is longer than the day. The temperature in Winter can vary from -70°C in the North and South Poles and 40°C or more in summer in the Northern hemisphere. In the tropics the temperature does not change very much and the year is divided into wet and dry seasons.

(only the part below was given to the other three groups)

Complete the sentences

1. The change of seasons happens because the earth's is tilted differently while it goes around the sun.
2. Summer happens when the sun's rays reach the Earth at aangle.
3. When the Earth's surface is tilted away from the sun and there are fewer daylight hours, the season is
4. During the Summer equinox on June 21st the day is than the night.
5. In the tropics the year is divided into andseasons.

Enc. 5 – The Weather

Weather happens every day. But what exactly is weather? Weather is made up of many parts. One part is temperature. Temperature is how hot or cold the air is. Another part of weather is precipitation. Precipitation is water that falls from the sky to Earth. The water can be a liquid. It can be a solid. Or it can be a mixture of the two. Rain, snow, sleet and hail are types of precipitation. A third part of weather is wind. Wind can be a gentle breeze. It can also be a strong tornado. All of these parts are affected by air pressure. Air pressure is the fourth major part of weather. Air pressure is the pressure that air exerts on Earth's surface. It can be high or low.

(only the part below was given to the other three groups)

Weather has many parts

Temperature can be	Precipitation can be	Wind can be	Air pressure can be

Enc. 6 – The Climate

The long-term pattern of weather in any part of the world is called climate. There are three major climate zones: tropical, temperate and polar.

Climate zones differ in temperature and precipitation. Tropical climates are usually warm and wet and the seasons are dry or rainy. Much of Central and South America are in the tropical climate zone. The United States is in a temperate climate zone and there are four seasons. Polar climates are usually cold and dry most of the year. Antarctica is in a polar climate zone.

Today scientists are worried that man's pollution of the atmosphere with greenhouse gases will result in global warming. During the last 100 years, the global surface temperature has risen (si è alzata) by about 0.6°C. It is projected to rise from 2 to 3°C. by the end of the 21st century.

(only the part below was given to the other three groups)

True/false exercise

1.	Climate is the pattern of weather over a long period of time	T	F
2.	Tropical climates like Central America are usually dry during the year	T	F
3.	In temperate zones there are only two seasons	T	F
4.	Global warming is the result of greenhouse gas pollution	T	F
5.	Scientists think that the Earth will warm to 5° C. by the end of the century	T	F

Enc. 7 – My little science dictionary

English	Italian
Air pressure	
Arch	
Astronomer	
Axis	
Breeze	
Century	
Change	
Climate	
Cold	
Course	
Cycle	
Darkness	
Daylight	
Degrees	
Diameter	
Dry	
Earth	
Elements	
Equinox	
Eruption	
Evaporation	
Explosion	
Generation	
Global warming	
Greenhouse gases	
Hail	
Heat	
Helium	
Hurricane	
Hydrogen	
Ice	
Light	
Liquid	
Long-term	
Mass	
Matter	
Mixture	
Moisture	
Moon	
Night	

Nucleus	
Pattern	
Perpendicular	
Planet	
Pollution	
Polar	
Precipitation	
Process	
Protuberance	
Rain	
Rays	
Rings	
Rotation	
Scientists	
Seasons	
Sleet	
Snow	
Solar system	
Solstice	
Star	
Sun spots	
Temperate	
Temperature	
Thunder	
Tilt	
Time	
Tornado	
Tropical	
Water	
Weather	
Wet	
Wind	
Winter	

Verbs

English	Italian
Called	
Condense	
Contain	
Determine	
Differ	
Dispersed	
Divided	

