



Venus Versus Earth—A Comparison

| Characteristic | Venus | Earth |
|---|--|--|
| Image |  |  |
| 1. order from sun | 2 nd planet from the sun | 3 rd planet from the sun |
| 2. average distance from Sun (miles) | 67,000,000 miles (about 3/4 earth's distance) | 93,000,000 miles (93 million miles) |
| 3. average diameter (miles) | 7521 miles (just a little smaller than earth's diameter) | 7918 miles |
| 4. shape | Sphere | sphere |
| 5. surface gravity at equator (1 gravity = earth's) | 0.9 gravity (slightly less than earth's) | 1 gravity |
| 6. day length— 1 spin on axis (Earth days) | 243 days | 1 day |
| 7. temperature at surface (°F) (note: water freezes at 32°F, boils at 212°F) | 864°F (same day and night) (note: lead melts at 621°F) | -128°F (night, poles) to 131°F (day, equator) [Average 57°F] |
| 8. surface broken into large chunks (plates) which move? | No | Yes |
| 9. layer of gases (atmosphere) surrounds the object? | Yes | Yes |
| 10. composition of atmosphere—main gases (% by volume) | 96.5% carbon dioxide (CO ₂), 3.4% nitrogen (N ₂), 0.015% sulfur dioxide (SO ₂), 0.007% argon (Ar), 0.002% water vapor (H ₂ O _{vapor}) | 78% nitrogen (N ₂), 21% oxygen (O ₂), 0.9% argon (Ar), 0.04% carbon dioxide (CO ₂), 0 to 3% water vapor (H ₂ O _{vapor}) |
| 11. weight of atmosphere on every square inch of surface | 1,334 pounds (per square inch) | 14.7 pounds (per square inch) |
| 12. water (H ₂ O) exists in liquid form? | No | Yes |
| 13. water (H ₂ O) exists in solid form (ice)? | No | Yes |
| 14. evidence of life detected? | No | Yes |

