

# Venus

Venus, named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty, is the second planet from the Sun and the closest planet to Earth. The thick cloud cover on Venus reflect the Sun's light which causes Venus to be the second brightest object in our night sky. Venus is often called the *Evening Star*.

Venus is also the hottest planet. It is covered by very thick, rapidly spinning clouds of water vapor and carbon dioxide. These clouds hold in heat and are continually warming the planet. The surface of Venus can reach almost 900 degrees F!

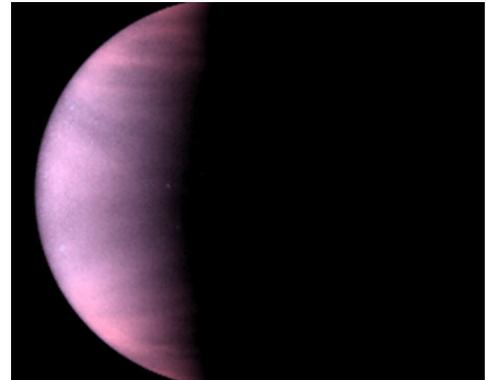


Image courtesy of <http://solarsystem.nasa.gov>

Venus orbits the Sun once every 225 Earth days. Venus rotates so slowly on its axis, and in a direction opposite the other planets, that a single rotation takes 243 Earth days. If you lived on Venus, you could watch the sun rise in the west and set in the east. You'd also have no excuse for not finishing your homework since a day on Venus is longer than a year on Earth!

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After reading the information above, fold your paper on the line and try to answer the questions below without referring back to the data. (Check the box with the correct answer.)

- Which planet is closest to Venus?  
 Earth       Mercury       Mars
- It takes the Venus \_\_\_\_\_ days to orbit the sun.  
 243       225       252
- The surface of Venus can reach \_\_\_\_\_ degrees F.  
 90       900       9,000
- Which lasts longer on Venus, a day or a year?  
 day     year
- Venus is often called the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Midnight Star       Evening Star       Roman Star

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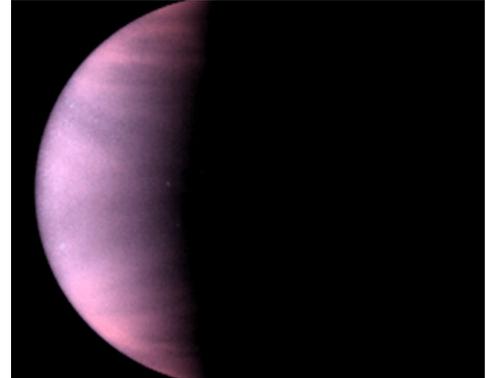


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