1. **Complete the following chart based on the information gained from presentations and/or class notes.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **location from the sun** | **size** | **special features** |
| **Mercury** | **Closest** | **Smallest (since Pluto was demoted)** | * **Greatest temperature extremes** * **Fastest orbit** * **No substantial atmosphere** |
| **Venus** | **2nd closest** | **3rd smallest** | * **Hottest planet** * **Atmosphere made of sulfuric acid** * **Similar to Earth in size** |
| **Earth** | **3rd closest** | **4th smallest** | * **Only planet with liquid water and life that we know of** * **Most dense planet** * **1 natural satellite (Moon)** |
| **Mars** | **4th closest** | **2nd smallest** | * **2nd most varied terrain** * **Largest Volcano – Olympus Mons** * **Oxidized atmosphere – looks like rust** * **2 Moons (Phobos / Deimos)** * **Polar Ice Caps** |
| **Jupiter** | **5th closest** | **Largest Planet - “King of the planets”**  **GAS GIANT** | * **Great Red Spot – a cyclonic storm** * **Small, faint rings** * **Most moons of any planet** |
| **Saturn** | **6th closest** | **2nd Largest Planet**  **GAS GIANT** | * **Ring System made of ice covered rocks** * **Least Dense** |
| **Uranus** | **7th closest** | **3rd Largest Planet**  **GAS GIANT** | * **Appears blue** * **Ring system of about 11 rings** * **Nearly horizontal axis** |
| **Neptune** | **8th closest** | **4th Largest**  **GAS GIANT** | * **Blue in color** * **Great Dark Spot** * **Fastest winds** |
| **Pluto ( DWARF planet)** | **Furthest** | **Dwarf planet** | * **3 moons: Charon, Hydra, Nix** * **Binary system: Pluto and Charon orbit around a common point** * **Elliptical orbit** |