Five-Night Planet Parade Featuring Mercury, Venus, and Jupiter

Description

This week, skygazers may have noticed the bright appearances of two planets, Venus and Jupiter, in the night sky. Soon, they will be joined by a third planet, Mercury, transforming this celestial event into a notable planet parade.

Although such alignments are not particularly rare, they stimulate considerable interest among the public. While at least one planet is typically visible to the naked eye from Earth, witnessing multiple planets in alignment is a relatively uncommon occurrence that captivates many stargazers.

The planet parade will feature a meeting of Mercury, Venus, and Jupiter. This event is expected to be visible from Thursday, June 11, through Monday, June 15, according to NASA's monthly skywatching guide. On these nights, observers will have the chance to see Venus, one of the brightest celestial bodies after the sun, alongside Jupiter, the largest planet in the solar system. However, the appearance of Mercury, which orbits the sun in just 88 days, marks a special highlight because it is less frequently seen from Earth.

The term "planet parade" is not an official astronomical designation, but rather a casual reference used by astronomers and enthusiasts to describe specific celestial events when planets align along an imaginary line called the ecliptic. While planetary alignments occur without much fanfare, having the opportunity to observe several planets at once is noteworthy.

Currently, Mercury joins Venus and Jupiter after the latter two have been in conjunction since June 9. During a conjunction, at least two planets appear close in the sky from our perspective, even if they are millions of miles apart.

For those in the Northern Hemisphere, observing the planet parade should be straightforward. Looking west after sunset will reveal all three planets. To enhance the viewing experience, it is advisable to find a location with minimal light interference and unobstructed views toward the horizon. No optical instruments are required to spot these planets, although telescopes can improve the experience.

Vocabulary List:

1. **celestial** /sə'lɛstʃəl/ (adjective): relating to things in the sky or space
2. **conjunction** /kən'dʒʌŋkʃən/ (noun): when two or more things appear close together
3. **ecliptic** /ɪ'klɪptɪk/ (noun): an imaginary line showing the sun's path
4. **unobstructed** /ˌʌnəb'strʌktɪd/ (adjective): not blocked; easy to see through or past
5. **interference** /ˌɪntər'fɪrəns/ (noun): extra light or noise that makes seeing hard
6. **orbits** /'ɔrbɪts/ (verb): moves around another object in a path

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Which three planets will be featured in the upcoming planet parade?

   Option: Mars, Venus, and Jupiter
   Option: Mercury, Venus, and Jupiter
   Option: Venus, Earth, and Saturn
   Option: Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn

2. What is the duration of the visibility of the planet parade?

   Option: June 11 to June 15
   Option: June 1 to June 10
   Option: July 11 to July 15
   Option: June 21 to June 25

3. Which planet is described as the largest in the solar system?

   Option: Mars
   Option: Earth
   Option: Venus
   Option: Jupiter

4. How long does it take Mercury to orbit the sun?

   Option: 88 days
   Option: 365 days
   Option: 29.5 days
   Option: 24 hours

5. What term is used casually to refer to the alignment of planets?

   Option: Celestial Alignment
   Option: Planetary Dance
   Option: Planet Parade
   Option: Star Show

6. From which direction should observers look to see the planet parade in the Northern Hemisphere?

   Option: East

Option: West
Option: North
Option: South

True-False

7. The planet parade is an official astronomical event.

8. Multiple planets being visible is a rare occurrence.

9. Venus is one of the brightest celestial bodies after the moon.

10. No telescopes are needed to see the planets during the parade.

11. The conjunction of Mercury, Venus, and Jupiter occurred on June 9.

12. Observing the planet parade requires a specific type of optical instrument to be effective.

Gap-Fill

13. The planet parade will be visible from June 11 to _____.

14. Mercury orbits the sun in just _____ days.

15. The term used for multiple planets aligning is called a _____ parade.

16. Observers should look _____ after sunset to see the planets.

17. Having multiple planets visible at once is considered _____.

18. The planet parade features a meeting of Mercury, Venus, and _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Mercury, Venus, and Jupiter 2. June 11 to June 15 3. Jupiter 4. 88 days 5. Planet Parade 6. West
True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. True 12. False
Gap-Fill: 13. June 15 14. 88 15. planet 16. west 17. noteworthy 18. Jupiter

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL6

POST TAG

1. ESL learning
2. esl news
3. jupiter
4. Level 6
5. Mercury
6. planet parade
7. venus

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