

Directions: Read the boxed passage *once*. Answer items 1–4 as best you can, or leave blanks. Reread the passage more slowly, using appropriate fix-up strategies. Revise your earlier answers. Then complete item 5.

Saturn is the second-largest planet after Jupiter and is the sixth from the sun. (Earth is the third planet from the sun.) What sets the planet Saturn apart from other eight planets in the solar system is the fact that it is surrounded by brilliant rings. Astronomers have recently discovered that other planets—Jupiter and Pluto—also have rings, but they are not brilliant like Saturn’s and can be seen only with powerful telescopes. Unlike smaller planets like Earth and Mars, Saturn is actually made up almost entirely of gas. As a result, Saturn is actually relatively low in density (weight divided by overall volume). In other words, a cubic foot of Saturn would weigh much less than a cubic foot of earth. Saturn’s specific gravity is less than water, which means it would float if only a tub could be found that was large enough to hold the enormous planet.

1. Is Saturn closer than the earth is to the sun? What are their relative positions?

2. Why is Saturn so light in weight?

3. If you don’t know the exact meaning of “specific gravity,” which term does it seem to be related to?

a. size

b. buoyancy

c. distance from
the sun

d. brightness

4. Summarize the paragraph after your first reading.

5. Summarize the paragraph after your second reading. What confusions did you clear up or what new information did you notice?

