



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

