

PROBLEM SOLVING ACTIVITY: PLANETARY WEATHER

BACKGROUND: Like the other planets in our solar system, the atmospheres of Venus and Mars are very different from that of Earth. The Martian atmosphere is only 1 percent as dense as that of Earth and is composed primarily of carbon dioxide and very small amounts of water vapor. Venus, however, has an atmosphere that is 100 times as dense as that of Earth, and is 97 percent carbon dioxide, a factor which pushes the surface temperature of the planet to about 480 degrees C (900 ° C). Imagine what a day on either of these planets would be like for an inhabitant from another part of the solar system!!!

TASK: Using information from research and from your class notes, create a weather forecast for the planets Venus and Mars. Assume that you are a local weather forecaster providing a traveler's forecast for people on Earth who will be journeying to these planets. Use illustrations if necessary.

