Concepts

For TOK



Concepts


1
Evidence
2
Certainty
3
Truth
4
Interpretation
5
Power
6
Justification

Concepts


7
Explanation
8
Objectivity
9
Perspective
10
Culture
11
Values
12
Responsibilities



Evidence

Examine and consider the following pairs of sentences



In my humble opinion…
It is my humble belief that…

According to a recent public opinion poll…
According to a recent public belief poll…

The newspaper's editorial opinions…
The newspaper's editorial beliefs…

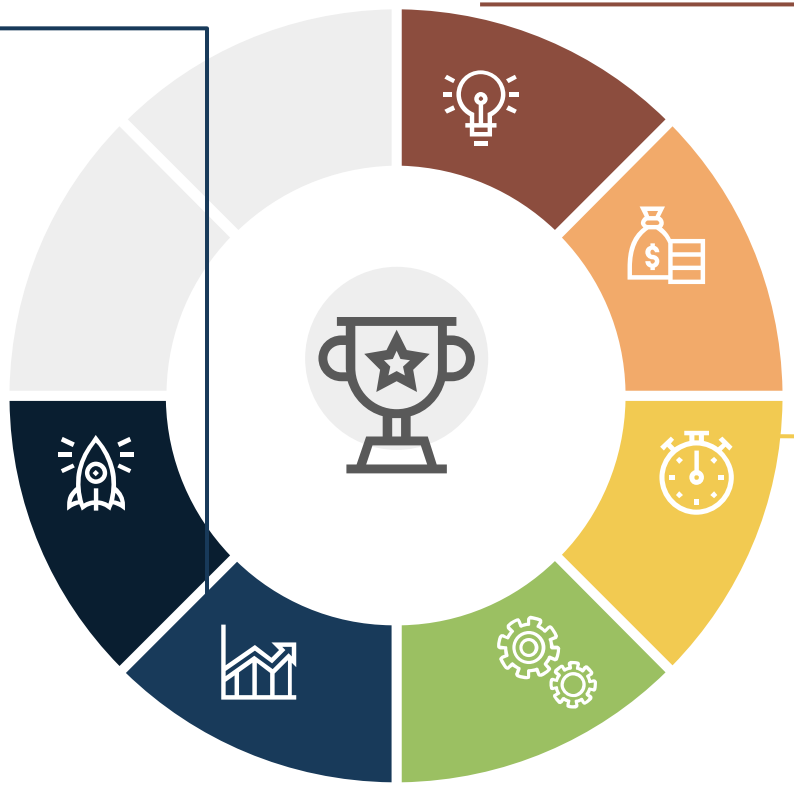
The Supreme Court opinion declares…
The Supreme Court formal statement of belief declares…

I believe in Santa Claus.
It is my opinion that Santa Claus exists.

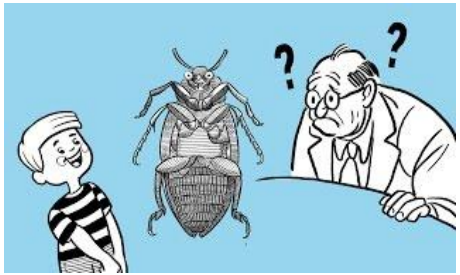
Believe it or not!
Let it be your opinion or not!

Faith

In some contexts, Faith is simply belief without evidence. But this is only a starting point. Faith has two primary meanings. It can be used as a synonym for trust in the secular world, and notably, in a more dogmatic sense, for all-or-nothing belief in, and personal commitment to God or Allah, that is central to most denominations of Christianity and Islam respectively. This is a good example of the polysemy of language.



WITTGENSTEIN'S BEETLE IN A BOX



Examples

Pinpoint the role of faith/trust in the five TOK Areas of Knowledge. Share one real, personal narrative of having faith (or trust) in someone, or something, from your everyday lives.



Certainty

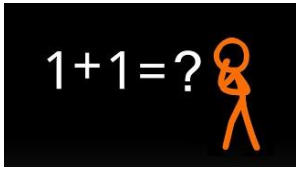
Certainty

“The word intuition, as used by mathematicians, carries a heavy load of mystery and ambiguity. Sometimes it seems to be a dangerous and illegitimate substitute for rigorous proof. In other contexts it seems to denote an inexplicable flash of insight by which the happy few gain mathematical knowledge which others only attain by long efforts.
— Davis, Philip J. and Hersh, Reuben (1981) The Mathematical Experience. Houghton Mifflin, Boston and New York.

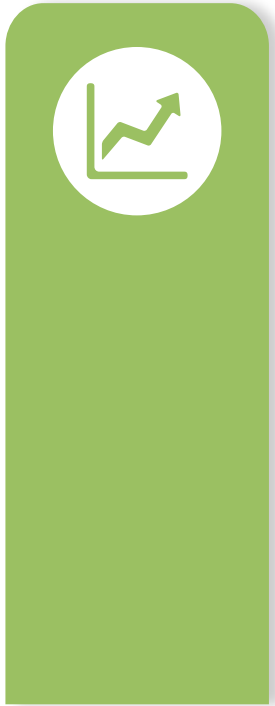
01

Monte Hall Problem
Paradoxes

02



03



Truth

Truth

What criteria are needed to say that something is true?

corresponds to the facts
is part of a coherent system
works in practice

With a group, debate a list of truths. Are they necessarily

Which, if any, of the Areas of Knowledge can claim absolute certainty?

Are there aspects of the human experience, not encompassed by the Areas of Knowledge, where claims of absolute certainty can be found?

To what extent do various manifestations of religious faith around the world entail certainty?



If all literature is a lie (it is fiction after all) to what extent can it convey truth?

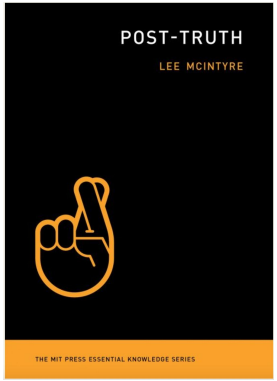
What is Post-truth?

Research examples of post-truth

Post Truth

Work in assigned random pairs. You are now “conversation partners”! Sit opposite each other comfortably. Unleash 6-7 minutes of good conversation based on the following generative questions.

01



Why do you think Lee Macintyre approved this particular image for the front cover of his book? What are the implications? What is at stake?

1. Are we really living in a post-truth world or have we always been surrounded by obfuscations and lies disguised as facts?

2. Have we reached a tipping point in our digital age where the sheer volume of advertising, distraction and outright deception have created a new chapter for humanity worthy of the name “post-truth”?

02

Now in groups of 4, work on this for 5 minutes.

3. Has “post-truth” muddied the waters? Have the consequences of fake news, social media bubbles, partisan echo chambers and the like, made it more difficult for TOK students to discern the difference between good and bad interpretations and to avoid the pitfalls of outright relativism?

4. In a populist, post-truth era has it become harder for IB students to embrace the value of multiple perspectives and to maintain an international mindset?

03

Interpretation

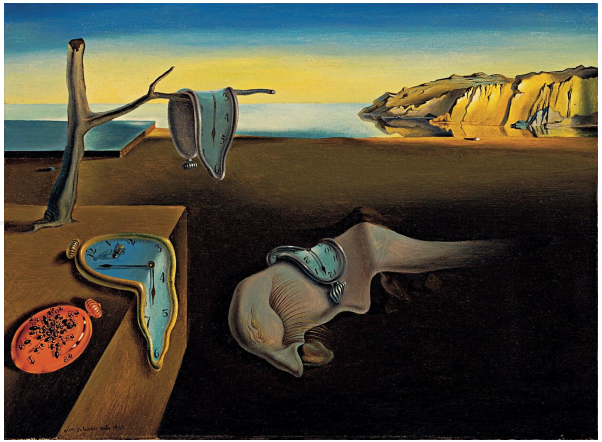
Interpretation

“We are never more (and sometimes less) than the co-authors of our own narratives. Only in fantasy do we live what story we please. In life… we are always under certain constraints. We enter upon a stage which we did not design and we find ourselves part of an action that was not of our making. Each of us being a main character in his own drama plays subordinate parts in the dramas of others, and each drama constrains the others.
— Macintyre, Alisdair (1984) After Virtue: A Study in Moral Theory. Second Edition. Notre Dame, Indiana. University of Notre Dame Press.

01

THE SHIP OF THESEUS

02



The Persistence of Memory. Oil on canvas. Museum of Modern Art, New York



Bonobo (*Pans paniscus*)

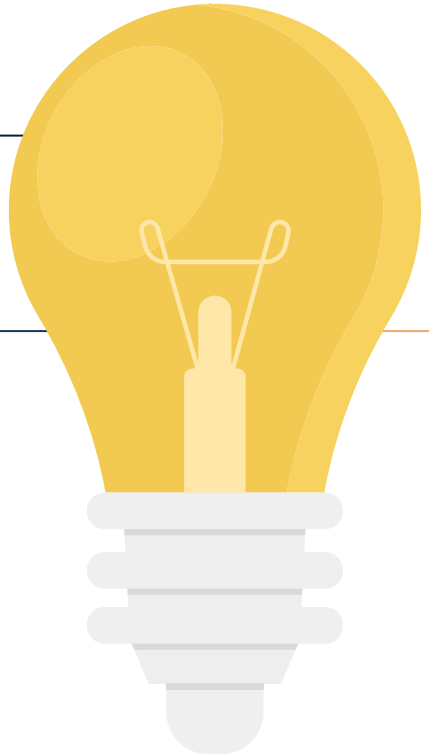
medias res

Animal

Very smart and very social

Capable and faliable

“between beasts and angels!”



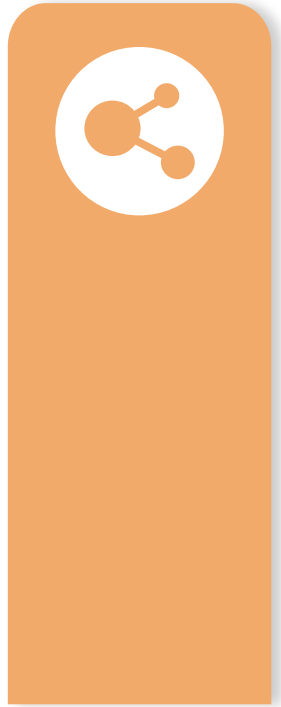
Continuous Questioning

“

The god’s did not reveal, from the beginning,
All things to us; but in the course of time,
Through seeking we may learn, and know things better.

But as for certain truth, no man has known it,
Nor will he know it; neither of the gods,
Nor yet of all the things of which I speak.
And even if by chance he were to utter
The perfect truth, he would himself not know it;
For all is but a woven web of guesses
— Xenophanes - DK,B, 18 and 34.
Fragments quoted in Popper. Karl (1963: 34) Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge. Routledge, New York.

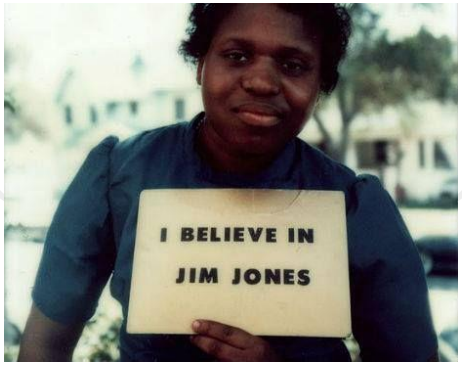
Power



Power



01



To what extent is faith/trust in strong, charismatic leaders always a negative thing?

03



Why does science have power? **Harkness table**

06





6 Concepts Infographics



Mars

Despite being red, Mars is a cold place



Mercury

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun



Saturn

Saturn is a gas giant and has rings

Jupiter

Jupiter is the biggest planet of them all



Neptune

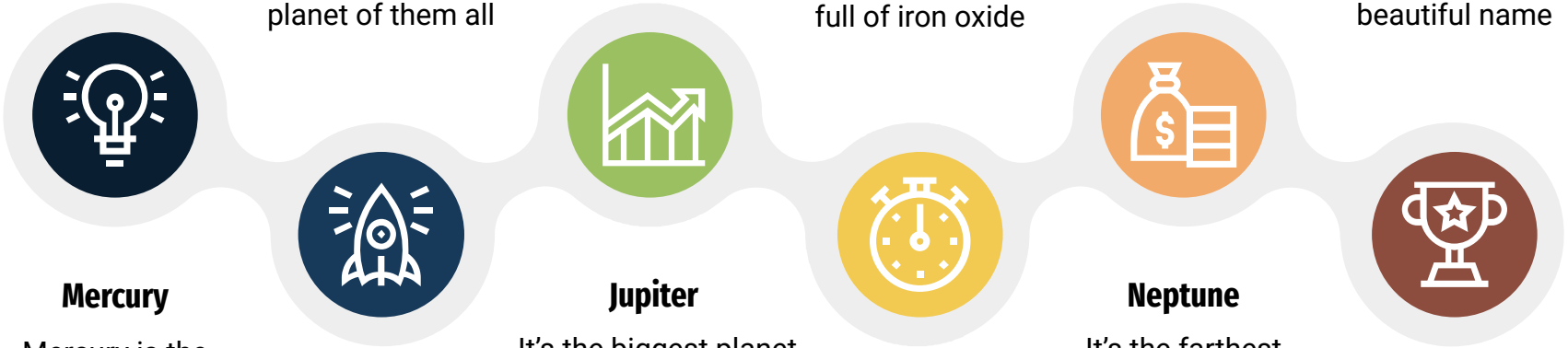
Neptune is the farthest planet from the Sun



Venus

Venus has a beautiful name, but it's hot

6 Concepts Infographics



Mercury

Mercury is the smallest planet

Saturn

Saturn is the biggest planet of them all

Jupiter

It’s the biggest planet of them all

Mars

It’s a cold place. It’s full of iron oxide

Neptune

It’s the farthest planet from the Sun

Venus

Venus has a beautiful name

6 Concepts Infographics



Mercury

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun

Saturn

It’s composed mostly of hydrogen and helium

Jupiter

It’s the biggest planet in the Solar System

Mars

It’s a cold place. It’s full of iron oxide dust

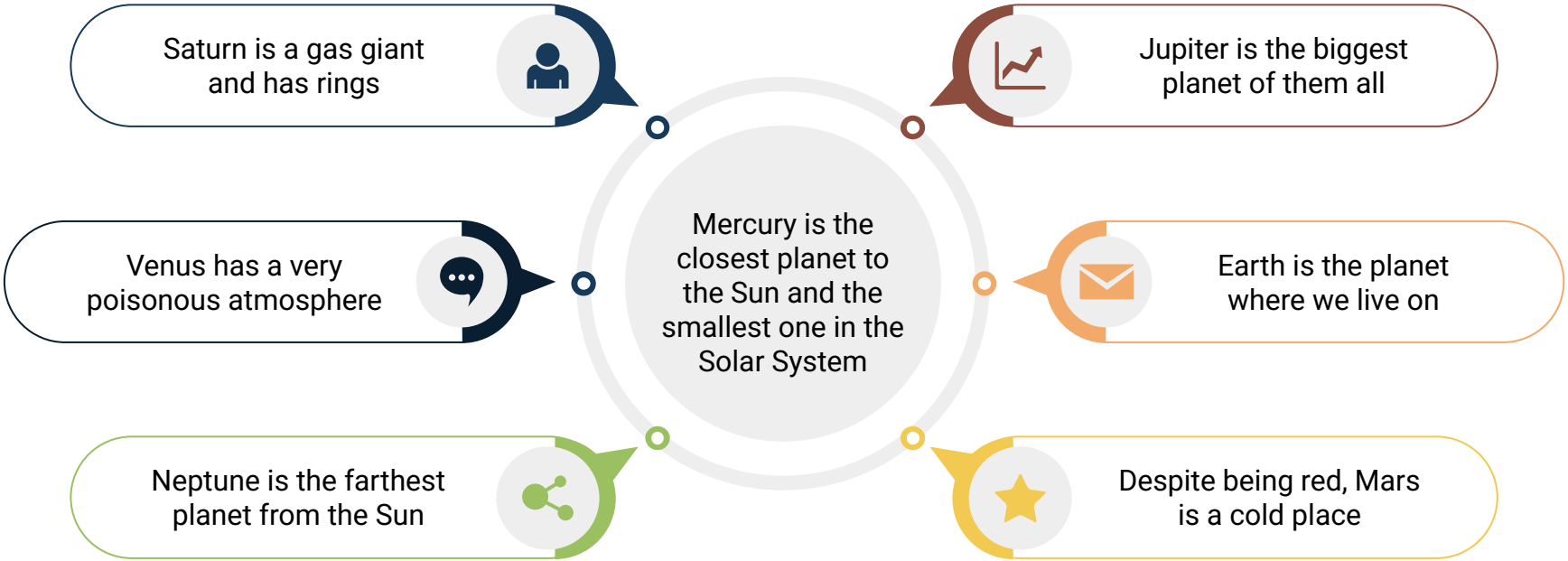
Neptune

It’s the farthest planet from the Sun

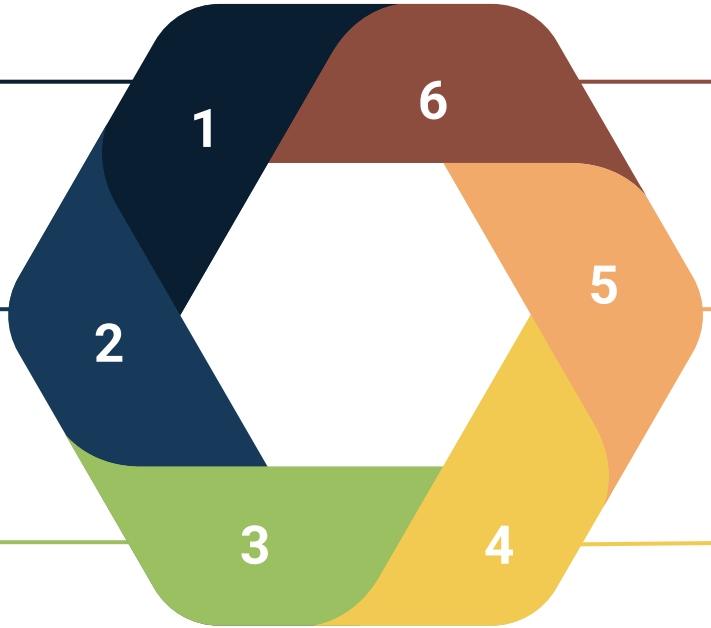
Venus

Venus has a very poisonous atmosphere

6 Concepts Infographics



6 Concepts Infographics



Mercury

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun

Mars

Despite being red, Mars is a cold place

Jupiter

Jupiter is a gas giant and the biggest planet

Neptune

It’s the farthest planet from the Sun

Saturn

Saturn is a gas giant and has several rings

Venus

Venus has a beautiful name, but it’s hot

6 Concepts Infographics

01

Mercury

Mercury is the smallest planet

02

Neptune

It’s the farthest planet from the Sun

03

Jupiter

Jupiter is the biggest planet

04

Venus

Venus has a beautiful name

05

Saturn

It’s a gas giant and has rings

06

Mars

Despite being red, Mars is very cold

6 Concepts Infographics



6 Concepts Infographics



Mercury

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun

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Jupiter is a gas giant and the biggest planet

Neptune

It’s composed of hydrogen and helium

Saturn

Saturn is a gas giant and has several rings

Venus

Venus has a beautiful name, but it’s hot

6 Concepts Infographics

Mercury
Mercury is the first

Neptune
It's far away

Earth is the only planet with life

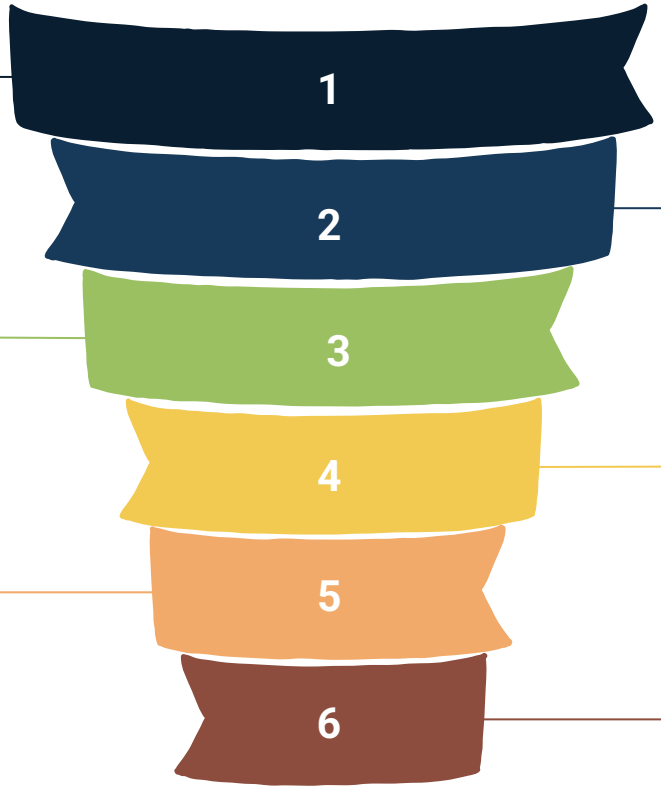
Mars
Mars is very cold

Venus
Venus is hot

Jupiter
Jupiter is very big

Saturn
Saturn is ringed

6 Concepts Infographics



Mercury

Mercury is the first

Mars

Mars is very cold

Jupiter

Jupiter is very big

Neptune

Neptune is far away

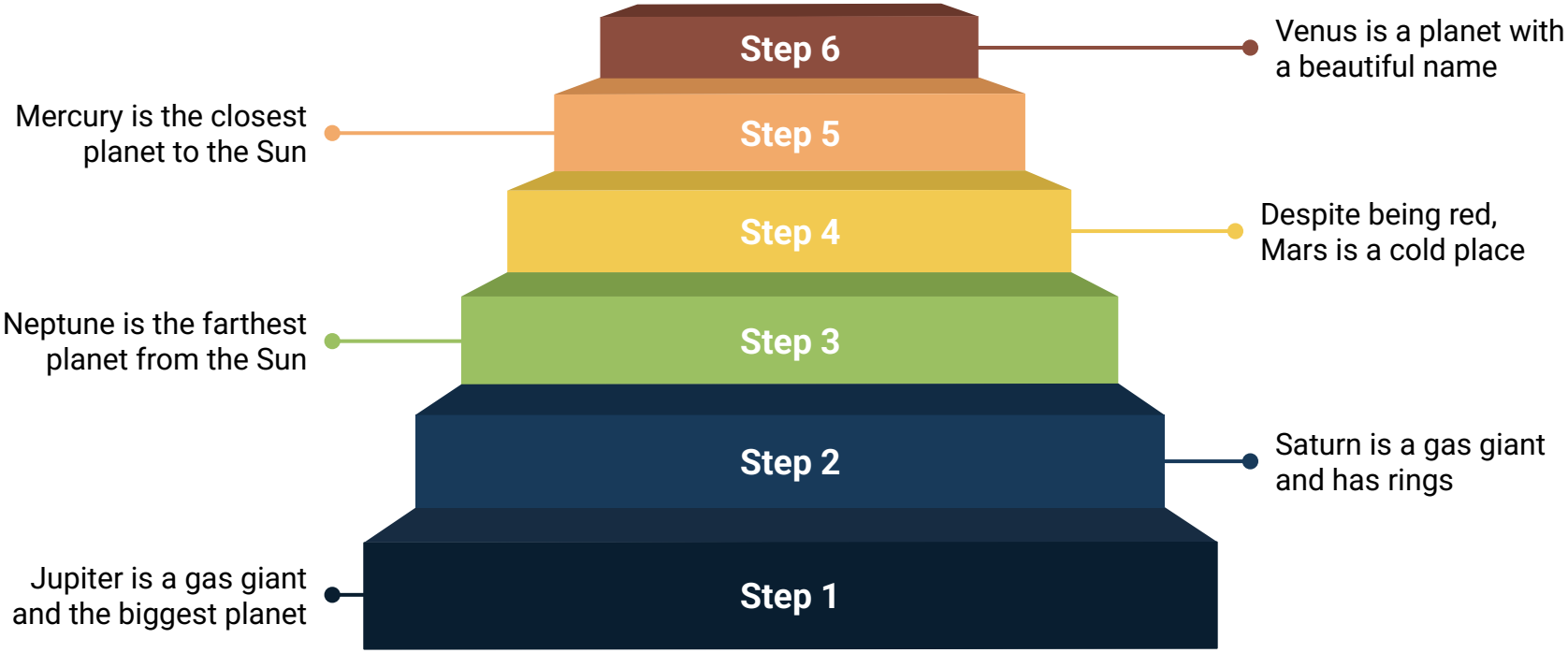
Saturn

Saturn is ringed

Venus

Venus is hot

6 Concepts Infographics



6 Concepts Infographics

Mercury

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun

Mars

Despite being red, Mars is a cold place

Jupiter

Jupiter is a gas giant and the biggest planet



Neptune

It’s the farthest planet from the Sun

Saturn

Saturn is a gas giant and has several rings

Venus

Venus has a beautiful name, but it’s hot

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Venus has a beautiful name, but it’s hot

6 Concepts Infographics

Mercury

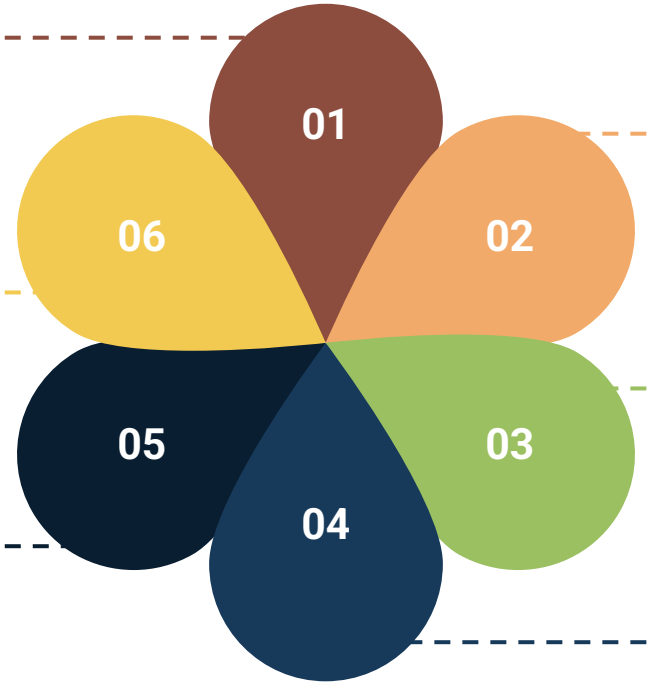
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Mars

Despite being red, Mars is a cold place

Jupiter

Jupiter is a gas giant and the biggest planet



Neptune

It’s the farthest planet from the Sun

Saturn

Saturn is a gas giant and has several rings

Venus

Venus has a beautiful name, but it’s hot

6 Concepts Infographics

Jupiter

Jupiter is a gas giant and the biggest planet

Mercury

Mercury is the smallest planet

Mars

Despite being red, Mars is very cold



Neptune

It’s the farthest planet from the Sun

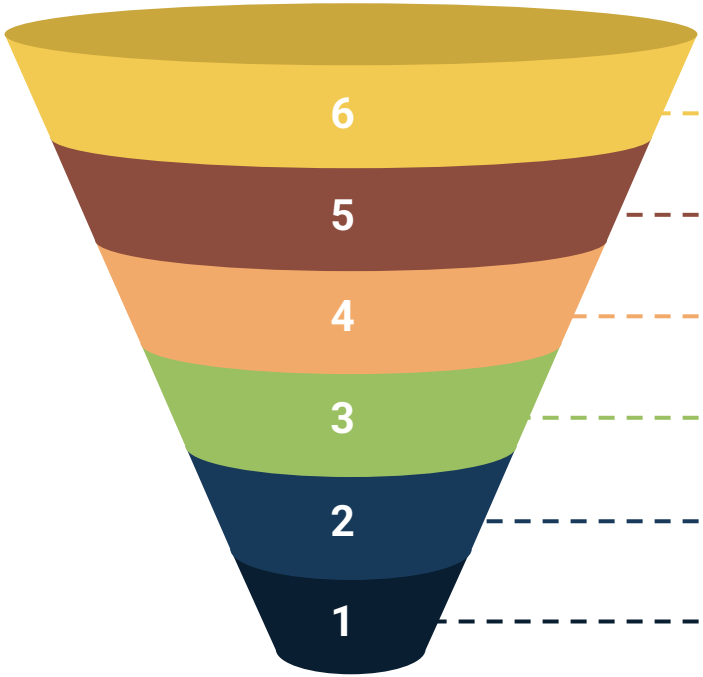
Saturn

Saturn is a gas giant and has rings

Venus

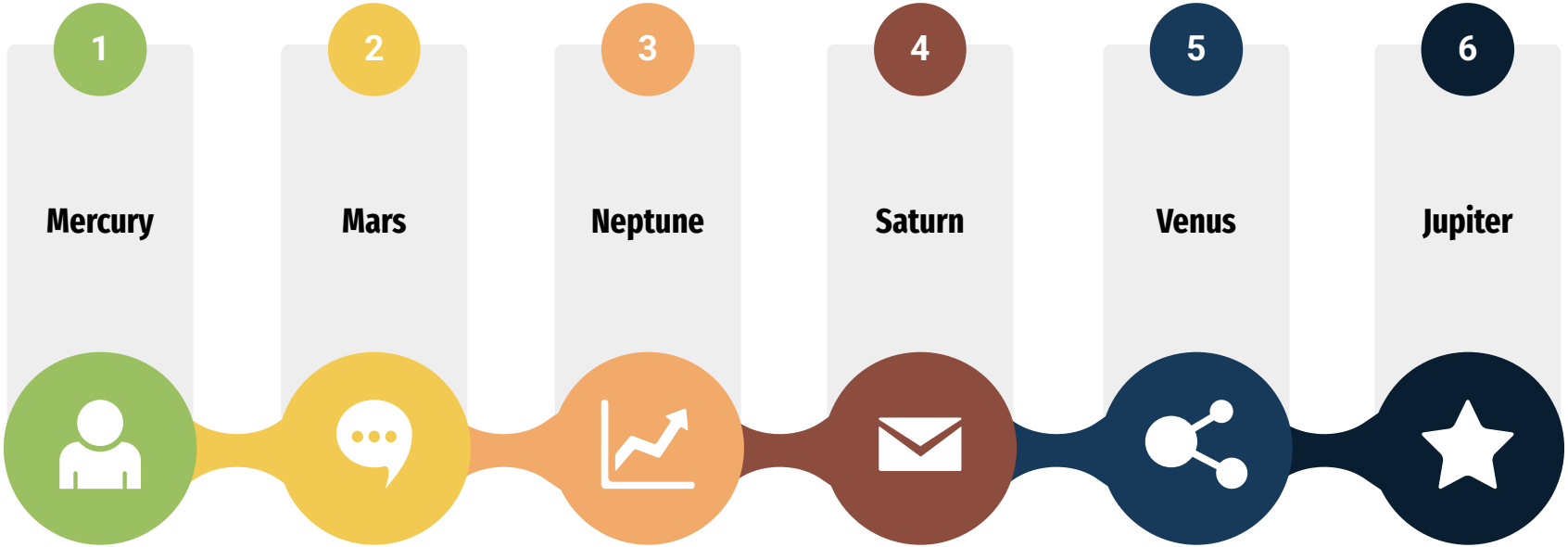
Venus has a beautiful name

6 Concepts Infographics



- Mercury is the smallest planet of them all
- Neptune is the farthest planet from the Sun
- Venus has a very poisonous atmosphere
- Saturn is a gas giant and has rings
- Jupiter is the biggest planet of them all
- Despite being red, Mars is a cold place

6 Concepts Infographics



6 Concepts Infographics



Mercury

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun

Step 1

Mars

Despite being red, Mars is a cold place

Step 2



Neptune

It’s composed of hydrogen and helium

Step 3



Saturn

Saturn is a gas giant and has several rings

Step 4



Venus

It’s the second planet from the Sun

Step 5

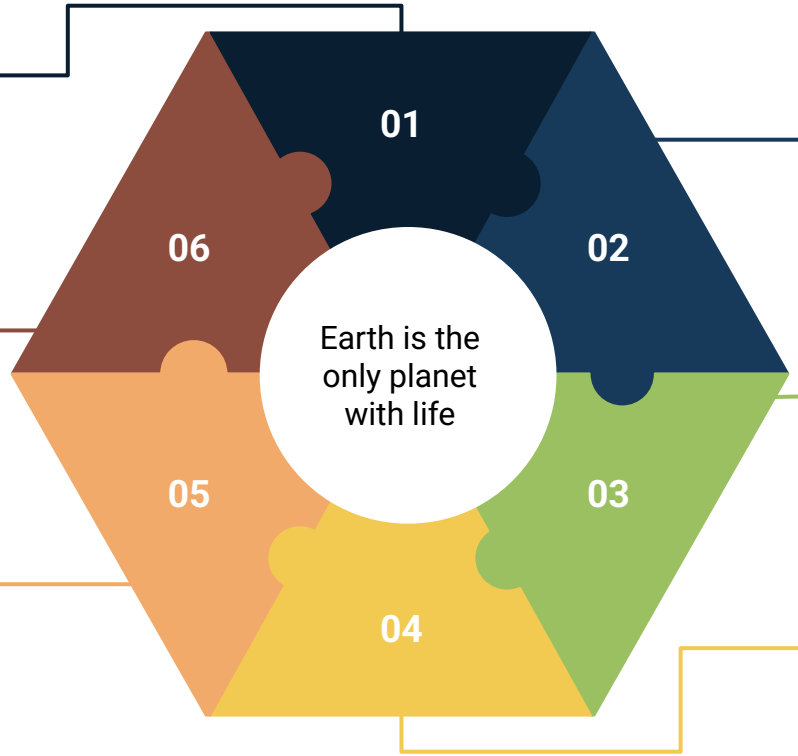


Jupiter

Jupiter is the biggest planet of them all

Step 6

6 Concepts Infographics



Mercury

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun

Mars

Despite being red, Mars is a cold place

Jupiter

Jupiter is a gas giant and the biggest planet

Neptune

It’s the farthest planet from the Sun

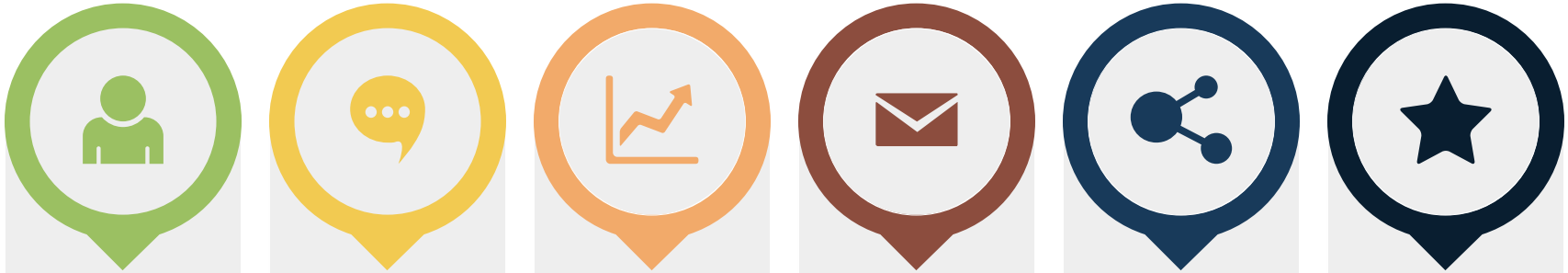
Saturn

Saturn is a gas giant and has several rings

Venus

Venus has a beautiful name, but it’s hot

6 Concepts Infographics



Mercury

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun

1

Mars

Despite being red, Mars is a cold place

2

Neptune

It’s composed of hydrogen and helium

3

Saturn

Saturn is a gas giant and has rings

4

Venus

It has a very poisonous atmosphere

5

Jupiter

Jupiter is the biggest planet of them all

6

6 Concepts Infographics

Mercury

Mercury is the first

01

Jupiter

Jupiter is very big

02

Venus

Venus is hot

03

Mars

Mars is very cold

05

Saturn

Saturn is ringed

06

Neptune

Neptune is far away

07

6 Concepts Infographics

Step 1

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun and smallest one

Step 2

Neptune is the farthest planet from the Sun

Step 3

Venus has a very poisonous atmosphere



Step 4

Saturn is a gas giant and has several rings

Step 5

Jupiter is a gas giant and the biggest planet of them all

Step 6

Despite being red, Mars is a cold place