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PLANET RESEARCH

Topics to Research and Include in Your Commercial:

When you create your commercial, try to answer as many of the following questions as you can: (These notes must be in your composition notebook!)

- **The Planet's Name:** What does its name mean? Many planets were named after mythological gods.
- **Position in the Solar System:** Where is your planet located (for example, Mars in the fourth planet from the Sun)? How far from the Sun does it orbit? Is its orbit unusual?
- **Rotation on its Axis:** How long does it take for your planet to rotate on its own axis? (This is one day on your planet.)
- **Size:** How big is your planet? How does it rate in terms of the other planets in terms of size (is it the biggest, the smallest)? What is your planet's mass?
- **Gravity:** What is the force of gravity at the surface of your planet? For example, what would a 100-pound person weigh on that planet?
- **Orbit:** How long does it take for your planet to orbit the Sun? (This is one year on your planet.)
- **How far away is the planet from Earth?**
- **How long would the journey take?** Our fastest space ship, the HMS Science Queen goes 450,000 miles an hour or 10,800,000 miles per 24/hrs (day).
- **Atmosphere:** What is the composition of the atmosphere of your planet? Is it a thick or a thin atmosphere?
- **Temperature:** What is the temperature range your planet? How does this compare to the temperature on Earth?
- **Composition of Your Planet and its Appearance:** What type of planet is it (is it rocky or a gas giant)? What is its internal composition? What does your planet look like?
- **Moons:** If there are moons orbiting your planet, describe them. What would you see on this moon if you were visiting?
- **Rings:** If there are rings orbiting your planet, describe them. Why would you want to see these rings if you were visiting?
- **How Would a Human Being Fare on Your Planet:** On your planet, would a person choke in the atmosphere, be squashed by the extreme gravity, float with ease, freeze, burn up, or something else? How would you compensate for this?
- **Something Special:** Is there anything special about your planet? This can often be the best part of the report, taking you off on interesting topics. For example, are there 100-year-long storms on your planet? Are there giant volcanos? Does your planet have a very tilted axis (giving it extreme seasons)? Have spacecraft visited your planet? If so, what have they discovered? Is your planet in an orbital resonance with another body?
- **Discovery of Your Planet:** The planets that are not visible using the naked eye were discovered after the invention of the telescope (these are Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto). Tell when your planet was discovered and by whom.
- **Why?** Why should people come visit your planet? What makes it an outstanding vacation spot?

