

August 29, 2020

A Weird Solar System Cousin Makes Its Photographic Debut

Student Comprehension Worksheet

Directions: After reading the online *Science News* article "[This is the first picture of a sunlike star with multiple exoplanets](#)," answer the following questions. If you are reading the print version, "A weird solar system cousin makes its photographic debut," skip questions No. 4 and No. 8.

1. What did astronomers take a picture of with the Very Large Telescope?
2. What makes this picture special? Explain.
3. Define "exoplanet" based on the article's context.
4. According to the online *Science News* article, how do astronomers typically observe exoplanets? How many have they found?
5. Are photographs of exoplanets common? How many exoplanets have had their picture taken?
6. What is the name of the star in the new photo and how far is it from Earth? Describe what the star looks like in the photograph.
7. Describe the star's two planets. What do the planets look like in the photograph? How are they marked so you can locate them easily?
8. According to the online *Science News* article, how old is the star? How old was our solar system when the star was born?

9. Why might this exoplanet family be important to astronomers?

10. What questions do you still have about the image and this exoplanet family?