

1. Define Nebular Theory.
2. What causes a gas cloud (also called a nebula) to begin to contract?
3. Describe the term “protosun” and explain how it formed.
4. At what point does the protosun become a full-fledged star?
5. How do the inner protoplanets differ from the outer protoplanets? Why?
6. How does the Nebular Theory explain why Pluto is so different from the other outer planets?
7. What is the asteroid belt? Where is it located? How does the Nebular Theory explain the formation of the asteroid belt?
8. What is the Kuiper belt? What is the Oort Cloud? How did they form?
9. Recently scientists have discovered extrasolar gas giants that are located very close to stars. How well does Nebular Theory explain this? What will likely happen to Nebular Theory in response to this?

10. On the back of this sheet, sketch a series of diagrams which show how our solar system evolved from a nebula.