

# Planet of Dreams

*Have you ever looked through a telescope? If you have, what did you see?*

1 “Lena,” whispered Dad. “Are you awake? You said to wake you up if I could get a clear image of Saturn through the telescope. Do you want to get up for a few minutes and come see it with me?”

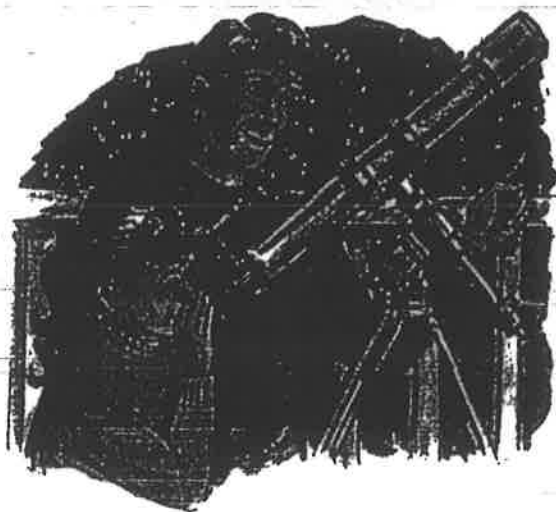
2 Lena opened her eyes and yawned. She glanced at the clock and saw that it was a little before midnight. “Thanks for coming to get me, Dad. I’m glad it ended up being a clear night. Is it pretty amazing?” she asked, turning on the small lamp on her nightstand.

3 Lena’s dad just grinned. “I’m not even going to say a word. You just have to see it yourself.”

4 Lena put on one of her brother’s cozy, worn-in sweatshirts over her pajamas. She and her dad sat on the wicker chairs on the back porch with the big telescope between them. Lena’s dad made a few adjustments, and then Lena looked through the small opening.

5 “Wow!” Lena exclaimed. “Dad, this is incredible! I see a gold-colored sphere, and I can even see two of Saturn’s rings. What is the smaller sphere I’m seeing beside it?”

6 “That’s Titan,” replied her dad, “one of Saturn’s moons. So far scientists have discovered that Saturn has 31 moons, but it’s possible that there are more still waiting to be discovered.”



7 “Do you think that people will ever get to visit Saturn, Dad?” asked Lena dreamily.

8 “I doubt it,” he answered. “Saturn is mostly composed of hydrogen and helium, which are both gases. The core is made of harder materials, but people wouldn’t be able to walk on the surface. It can also be extremely windy on Saturn. In fact, I’ve read that winds can exceed one thousand miles an hour!”

9 “I guess I’ll just have to be happy seeing it through a telescope,” sighed Lena.

10 Once Lena was settled snugly back in her bed, she closed her eyes and quickly fell into a deep sleep.

11 *A tall, distinguished-looking gentleman stepped onto a large stage with red velvet curtains. He approached the microphone. “This year’s award for Greatest Contribution to the World of Interplanetary Study goes to Ms. Lena Rinaldo for her discovery of a new moon around Saturn. In addition, Ms. Rinaldo has designed a spacesuit that can tolerate winds of nearly two thousand miles an hour. Her design brings us one step closer to sending humans to the ringed planet one day.”*

12 *Lena took the microphone and addressed the large audience that had gathered in her honor. “Thank you for this generous award,” she began. “Today is a dream come true for me. I have strived for this my entire career. I’d like to announce that Saturn’s newest moon will be named Alejandro, in honor of my father.” She winked at her dad, who was sitting proudly in the front row of the auditorium next to Lena’s mother and brother.*

13 A car door slammed, and Lena opened her eyes. She took in the sunlight streaming in the window of her familiar bedroom and smelled the scent of coffee and eggs coming from the kitchen. She sighed, put on her slippers, and headed to the bathroom to brush her teeth.

## Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. made of

\_\_\_\_\_ Par. 8

2. be greater than

\_\_\_\_\_ Par. 8

3. respected and wise

\_\_\_\_\_ Par. 11

4. worked toward

\_\_\_\_\_ Par. 12

Compound words are divided into syllables between the two words that make the compound. For example, *play/ground*. Divide the words below into syllables using a slash (/).

5. nightstand
6. sweatshirt
7. sunlight
8. spacesuit

Fill in the blanks below with the possessive form of the word in parentheses.

9. Lena can see \_\_\_\_\_ rings through the telescope. (Saturn)
10. \_\_\_\_\_ dad knows a lot about the planets. (Lena)
11. The \_\_\_\_\_ discovery of 31 moons surprised Lena. (scientists)

## Reading Skills

1. Do you think Lena will be a scientist one day? Explain your answer.

2. What is one reason why Lena's dad thinks people will never be able to visit Saturn?

3. What part of the story is a fantasy for Lena? What part takes place in reality?

4. The **protagonist** is the main character in a story. Who is the protagonist in this story?

## Study Skills

Write the name of the reference source you could use to find out the information in each question below.

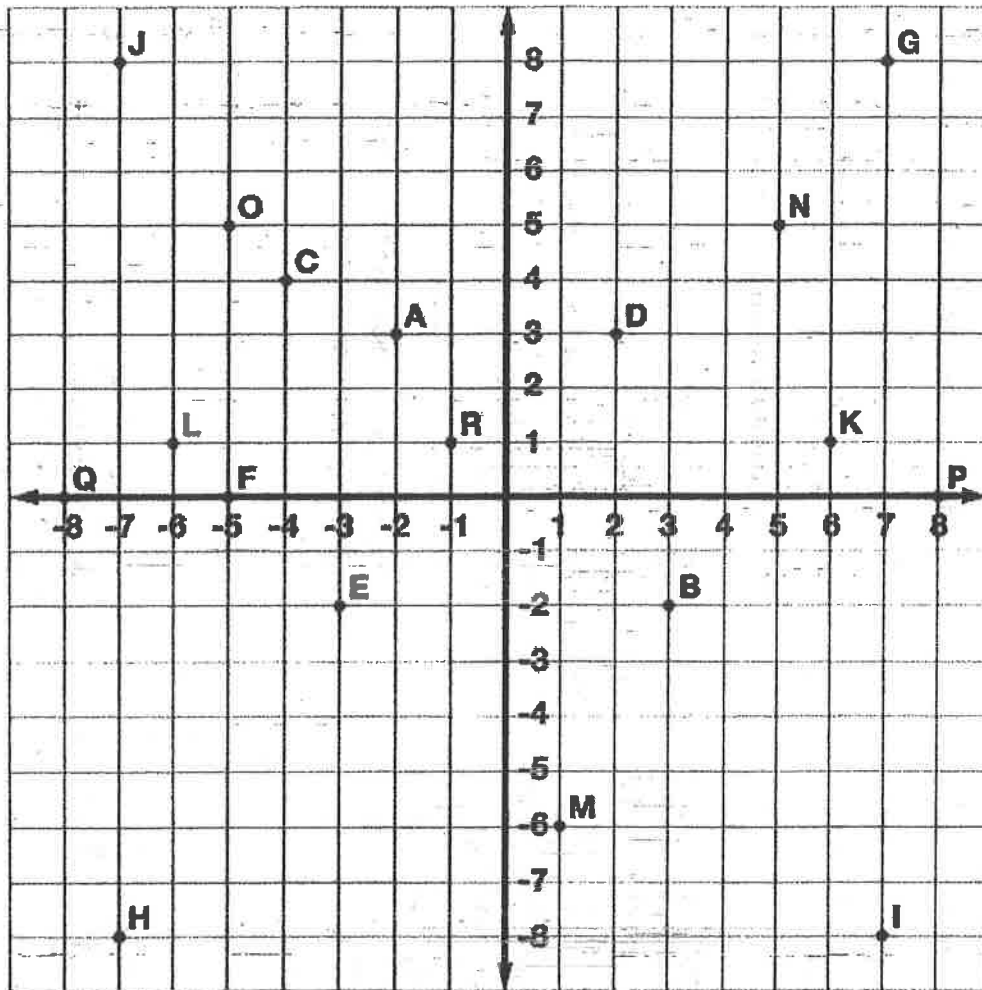
encyclopedia      dictionary  
thesaurus

1. Where could you find the definition of the word *interplanetary*?

2. Where could you learn more about the conditions on Saturn?

3. Where could you find a synonym for the word *incredible*?

# Ordered Pairs



Tell what point is located at each ordered pair.

- |                     |                    |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. $(3, -2)$ _____  | 2. $(2, 3)$ _____  | 3. $(-5, 5)$ _____ |
| 4. $(-7, -8)$ _____ | 5. $(-4, 4)$ _____ | 6. $(-5, 0)$ _____ |

Write the ordered pair for each given point.

- |             |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 7. E _____  | 8. M _____  | 9. P _____  |
| 10. G _____ | 11. Q _____ | 12. N _____ |

Plot the following points on the coordinate grid.

- |                  |                 |                |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 13. S $(-6, -3)$ | 14. T $(2, -4)$ | 15. U $(5, 8)$ |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|

# Indentured Servants

Cross-Curricular Focus: History/Social Sciences



In the 1600s large farms called plantations flourished in the southern colonies of America. The soil there was rich. The warm climate created excellent conditions for successfully growing crops for profit. Two favorite crops of the times were tobacco and rice. They were later joined by indigo, a plant used to make a deep blue dye for coloring ink and cloth.

Traditional family farms were relatively small. Families were large, depending on all members of the family to do the work on the farm. Often, the farm raised only enough to meet the family's needs. This included a small surplus to be used for the next year's seed. In particularly good times, an abundance of any crop would be canned and preserved for the winter. There was less fresh food available in the winter. Additional small amounts might be traded with other farmers for crops of another kind. This would increase the variety of food available. Rarely would any crops be sold for profit.

Running large plantation created a new problem. The members of a single family, or even several together, were not enough people to do all the necessary work on the plantation. Landowners brought workers over from England. Often, working class people who wanted a new start in the Americas would sign a contract and become an **indentured servant**. Their passage on a ship from England to America was paid by the landowner. The indentured servants were given food, clothing and shelter. They would work an agreed-upon number of years in the service of the landowner. At the end of their contracted time, they were free to leave the plantation and pursue their new lives in America.

Some indentured servants were treated quite fairly. Others were treated with the same disregard as slaves. For all intents and purposes, indentured servants could be considered slaves with the hope of freedom in the future. Their time of servitude would eventually end. For the increasing number of slaves who began arriving from African and the Caribbean, there was no such promise.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What distinguished an indentured servant from a slave?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Why did plantations need so many workers?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3) What did indentured servants receive for their work?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4) What motivation might working class people in England have had to sign a contract to work as an indentured servant?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5) If you lived in the middle 17th century and wanted to come to America, would you want to be an indentured servant? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_