

## Worksheet 4.1

### Gravitational Force

1. A piece of space debris has a mass of 4 kg. It is located 2000 m from an asteroid. If the force of gravity is 0.6 N between them, what is the mass of the asteroid?

2. A  $6 \times 10^{12}$  kg moon in a distant galaxy experiences a 1 N force of attraction between it and a  $10 \times 10^{30}$  kg planet. How far apart are they?

3. What is the force of gravity between earth and the moon? The earth's mass is  $5.98 \times 10^{24}$  kg, the distance from the earth to the moon is  $3.90 \times 10^8$  m. The mass of the moon is  $7.30 \times 10^{22}$  kg.

4. You weigh 458 N on earth, but you are on Mars. Here's some data on Mars: radius =  $3.38 \times 10^6$  m, mass =  $6.42 \times 10^{23}$  kg. (a) What is the acceleration of gravity on Mars? (b) How much do you weigh on Mars? (c) If you drop a 3.50 kg rock from the surface of Mars and it falls a distance of 1.20 m, how fast will it be going just before it hits the surface?

5. If the mass of Mercury is  $3.3 \times 10^{23}$  kg and its radius of  $2.4 \times 10^6$  m, estimate the gravitational acceleration (g) at the surface of Mercury.

6. An object of mass 0.5 kg is transported to the surface of Planet X where the object's weight is measured to be 20 N. The radius of the planet is  $4 \times 10^6$  m. (a) What is the mass of the planet? (b) What free fall acceleration will the 0.5 kg object experience when transported to a distance of  $2.0 \times 10^6$  m from the surface of the planet? (no longer on the surface)

7. Saturn has many moons that orbit it. Saturn has a mass of  $5.68 \times 10^{26}$  kg.
- The closest moon to Saturn, Mimas, has an orbital radius of 185,000,000 m from Saturn's core. What is the tangential velocity of Mimas as it orbits?
  - What centripetal force does Mimas (mass =  $3.8 \times 10^9$  kg) experience due to Saturn's gravitational pull?
  - Titan has a tangential velocity of 5,580 m/s. What is its orbital radius?
  - Dione has a mass of  $11 \times 10^{20}$  kg and a diameter of 1,123,000 m. What is the acceleration due to gravity on the moon's surface?
  - Dione is located 377,000,000 m from Saturn. What is the force of gravity between Dione and Saturn?
  - Rhea has an orbital radius of 527,000,000 m and experiences a gravitational force of  $3.1 \times 10^{20}$  N. What is the mass of Rhea?

8. Fill in the missing information from the table below.

	Saturn	Titan	Prometheus
Force gravity from Saturn	X		
Gravitational Constant (g)		$1.352 \text{ m/s}^2$	
Radius	$5.44 \times 10^7 \text{ m}$	$2.57 \times 10^6 \text{ m}$	$4.3 \times 10^4 \text{ m}$
Distance from Saturn	X		$1.4 \times 10^8 \text{ m}$
Mass	$5.6846 \times 10^{26} \text{ kg}$	$1.3 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$	$1.6 \times 10^{17} \text{ kg}$
Period about Saturn	X	16 days	