

Earth Wins “Best Planet” Award

Genesis 1; Psalm 24:1-2; Psalm 104.

There is an award ceremony hosted on the International Space Station. Planet Earth is a nominee for the category of “Best Planet”. Announcements are made in booming voice-over-man voice, from off stage. The information about the nominated planets should be read in a different voice, also from off stage, as too much voice-over-man is irritating! We made up a Powerpoint display to go with the ceremony – we started with Slide 1: “Planetary Awards 2008” up on the screen; Slide 2: “Best Planet Nominees”; Slide 3: clipart thermometer to represent Mercury; Slide 4: clipart volcano to represent Venus; Slide 5: a chart/graph titled “Very Fast Wind” to represent Neptune; Slide 6: a picture of Wallace (from Wallace and Grommit) eating cheese on the moon to represent The Moon; Slide 6: a cartoon picture of earth with a smiley face, and a waving arm; Slide 7: “Winner: Planet Earth!”.

Announcer: Welcome back to The Planetary Awards for 2008! Live from the International Space Station! And now, here to present the award for “Best Planet”, is actor Michael Dooberry! Give him a big hand! *(leads the audience in applauding)*

Enter “Michael” stylishly dressed or in a suit and bow tie, smiling and waving. Have a microphone on a tall stand, centre stage at the front. He goes up to this.

Michael: Thank you! Thank you! It’s an honour to be here tonight to reveal the choice of “Best Planet 2008” out of all the amazing planets. I think we should all give a big thank you to the International Space Station for hosting this amazing celebration this evening *(lead the audience in applauding)* – Yeah, that’s right, come on, you space men, give yourself a big hand! Let’s have a look at this year’s nominees...

(have a picture come up on the screen to represent each of these planets)

Announcer: The nominations for “Best Planet 2008” are: Mercury!

Dippy Girl: On Mercury you can see the Sun rise twice in one day and experience the widest range in temperature of any planet, from a chilly -170°C at night to a sizzling 350°C in daytime.

Announcer: Next we have Venus!

Dippy Girl: Experience the longest day of any planet, a staggering 243 Earth days! Venus is the only planet where the Sun rises in the west and sets in the east. Venus also boasts magnificent volcanoes, and, a highly poisonous atmosphere!

Announcer: Nominee number three is Neptune!

Dippy Girl: It’s a lovely colour blue and has the fastest wind of any planet at 2000 km per hour!

Announcer: Nominee number four is The Moon!

Dippy Girl: The Moon is made of cheese and makes the tides on Earth go in and out.

Announcer: And last but not least, Earth!

Dippy Girl: Nestling between Venus and Mars, Earth is the only planet in the Solar System on which conditions are right for life to exist. Earth is the correct distance from the Sun for water to exist as a liquid, a vital ingredient for life, while it's oceans also help to regulate the planet's temperature. It's special atmosphere and magnetic field shields the Earth from harmful solar radiation. The Earth the only planet you can walk on without the aid of protective clothing.

Announcer: Back to you, Michael!

Michael: The Panel tell me this was a difficult decision to reach. *(taking card out of envelope)* The winner of "Best Planet 2008" is... Earth! *(lead the audience in applauding – "Winner! Planet Earth!" comes up on screen)* And here to receive the award is the President of Planet Earth, Jamelia Allstock!

(Jamelia walks up to the mike, takes the award, Michael steps back)

Jamelia: Thank you Michael, thank you. Wow. This is such an honour. Um, I'd like to start by thanking God for doing that thing with the axis to make sure we don't fry, and I'd like to thank God for oxygen and water. Then I'd like to thank God for creating Africa; I'd like to thank God for creating Europe; I'd like to thank God for the Americas; I'd like to thank God for creating Asia...

Michael: *(pushing in front of microphone)* Basically, you'd like to thank God for all the continents...

Jamelia: *(pushing back)* Yes! I haven't finished... I'd like to thank God for creating Australia; I'd like to thank God for Antarctica..

Michael: *(getting a message in his ear-piece saying "stop her from going on and on", pushing in front of microphone)* Well, thank you for that acknowledgment Jamelia...

Jamelia: *(pushing back)* I haven't finished! Also, I'd like to thank God for the Great Barrier Reef; I'd like to thank God for the Grand Canyon...

Michael: *(pushing in front of microphone)* Yes, thank you, Jamelia, we get the picture, Earth has a lot to offer...

(Michael drags Jamelia away, Jamelia still talking...)

Jamelia: I'd like to thank God for Mount Everest; I'd like to thank God for the Northern Lights....

Michael: It's time to take a quick commercial break, and then we will be right back with our next award category...don't go away!

Information taken from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/space/solarsystem/> and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/space/exploration/iss/index.shtml> and <http://www.pol.ac.uk/home/insight/tideinfo.html>

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