

Planet Review 1

Background Information

The activities located in this lesson can be used as a general review, or in preparation of the planet test.

Objectives

By the end of this activity, students will be able to:

- identify the planets and their order in relationship to the Sun.
- comprehend and follow oral directions.
- reinforce correct usage of the comparative and superlative cases.

Instruction Time

30 Minutes

Materials

- Astronomer Journal page 14
- pencils
- pennies, poker chips, torn pieces of colored paper, etc. to use as game markers

Procedure

1. This activity is designed for use after students have become familiar with the names and characteristics of the nine planets in our solar system. If students are not comfortable or confident, they should be directed to the appropriate sections of the StarChild site (see reference section) and instructed to read/study the information supplied there about each of the planets. Remind students that the "Did You Know?" and "The Facts" sections also contain important information.
2. Once students are comfortable with their knowledge of the planets, they are ready to play Planet-Tac-Toe.
3. Instruct students to find the planet-tac-toe board in their Astronomer Journals.
4. Each of the nine spaces should be filled in with the name of a different planet. The arrangement of names is a student decision.
5. The students will then cover the name of the planet that fits the description supplied by the teacher. Sample teacher clues and answers provided on the next page.
6. The criterion for "winning" can be changed from game to game, for example, the first to cover three in a row vertically, horizontally or diagonally; the first to cover all planet names; the first to cover a plus sign.

Expected Results & Explanations

Upon completion of this activity, students should be able to successfully state the order of the planets and identify planets when given clues.

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Sample Teacher Clues

1. This planet is the largest of all. (Jupiter)
2. This planet has more rings than all the others. (Saturn)
3. This planet has the fastest revolution around the Sun. (Mercury)
4. Some of the solar systems deepest valleys are found here. (Mars)
5. This planet is smaller than one of Neptune's moons. (Pluto)
6. Most of this planet is covered by water. (Earth)
7. This planet is closest to Earth. (Venus)
8. Only one planet is smaller than this one. (Mercury)
9. No other planet is hotter than this one. (Venus)
10. This planet has one more moon than Earth. (Mars)
11. This planet is usually farthest from the Sun. (Pluto)
12. Only Jupiter is larger than this planet. (Saturn)
13. This planet is the best place for humans to live. (Earth)
14. This planet is the smallest. (Pluto)
15. Only Pluto is ever farther from the Sun than this planet. (Neptune)
16. This planet is more tilted than any other. (Uranus)

Assessment

Extensions

Resources