

Planet Review 2

Background Information

This lesson serves as a good review activity after learning about the planets.

Objectives

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

- recall the correct order of the planets.
- apply knowledge about planets to match planet name with description.
- collaborate with peers to accomplish task.

Instruction time

15 Minutes

Materials

- Copies of planet puzzles (at end of this activity) on heavy paper
- Scissors

Preparation

1. Copy enough planet puzzle pieces (onto heavy paper) for each group of 3-4 students to have a set.
2. Cut out the planet puzzle pieces.
3. Mix up each set of puzzle pieces, but keep each set separate from the other sets.

Procedure

1. Have students work with a partner for this activity.
2. Pass out one set of puzzle pieces per group.
3. Instruct students to separate the pieces into two groups: planet name and planet description.
4. One person will read the description. The other person will search the planet names to find the correct planet.
5. Each person will offer his/her planet name and planet description to see if the pieces match.
6. Once the pieces are matched, students can place the planet pieces in the correct order in the solar system.
7. If necessary, students may use the bulletin board or Astronomer Journals as references if they need help.

Expected Results & Explanations

Upon completion of this activity, each group should be able to identify and order planets. Planet identification can be checked by the students, but caution noted since more than one description can match planet name. The teacher may need to verify that the order of the planets is correct.

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Mercury

This planet is the closest planet to the sun.

Venus

This planet is a rock planet that has very thick clouds.

Earth

This planet is the only planet with oceans of water.

Mars

This planet is known as the Red Planet because its soil is a reddish-orange color.

Jupiter

This planet is known as the King of the Planets because it is the biggest one in the Solar System.

Saturn

This planet is a gas giant that is famous for its rings.

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Uranus

This planet is a gas giant that is called "sleepy" because it rolls on its side through the Solar System.

Neptune

This planet is a gas giant that has a bluish color.

Pluto

This planet is the smallest and coldest planet in the Solar System.