

Space Odyssey Online Teacher's Guide

Solar System Sing Along

Previsit Activity for Solar System



Courtesy NASA/JPL

Grades K-3
CDE Standards
Science: 4.4d
Language Arts: 1

Preparation and Materials

Estimated Preparation Time: 10 minutes

Estimated Activity Time: 45 minutes

Materials

Chart paper

Copies of Solar System coloring book

Crayons or colored pencils

Learning Goals/Objectives

Students will

- List the planets in their order from the Sun
- Identify and label pictures of the planets

Connection to *Space Odyssey*

Space Odyssey is filled with references to our solar system. Visitors can participate in the storytelling program *There's No Place Like Space* or take part in learning about how planets orbit the Sun at the Orbits Explorer interactive.

Advanced Preparation

1. Make enough copies of the Solar System coloring book for each student in your class.
2. Write the words to the Solar System song on chart paper.
3. Familiarize your students with the tune "She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain" so that they will be successful in singing the Solar System song.

Classroom Activity

1. Assemble students in front of the chart with the words to the song.
2. Read through the words of the song on the chart. Inform students that this will be a fun way to learn the planets in their order from the Sun.
3. Sing or have students listen to the tune of "She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain" so that they are familiar with the tune.
4. Sing the Solar System song for students. Ask them to join in singing as they learn the words. For younger students, teach only the first verse.

5. Use different intonations for the following phrases in the song:
 “its small” - small, high voice
 “they’re big” - deep, loud voice
6. Allow students to sing and read the song as they illustrate their planet coloring book.

Planets in the Solar System

(To the tune of She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain)

There are nine planets in our solar system (just nine!)
There are nine planets in our solar system (just nine!)
Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars
Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune
And Pluto orbit 'round our star the Sun (just nine!)

There are four inner planets 'round the Sun (they're rocky!)
There are four inner planets 'round the Sun (they're rocky!)
Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars
Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars
Are the four inner planets 'round the Sun (they're rocky!)

Oh the inner planets stay in the asteroid belt (inside!)
Oh the inner planets stay in the asteroid belt (inside!)
The gas giants and Pluto are outside
The gas giants and Pluto are outside
Oh the inner planets stay in the asteroid belt (inside!)

The gas giants all have rings and lots of moons (they're big!)
The gas giants all have rings and lots of moons (they're big!)
Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune
Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune
Are the giants that have rings and lots of moons (they're big!)

Pluto is different from them all (it's small!)
Oh, Pluto is different from them all (it's small!)
It has a moon named Charon
It is icy, cold, and barren
Oh, Pluto is different from them all (it's small)

Variations/Extensions

1. Have students write their own solar system song or verse to add to the song they know.
2. Allow students to illustrate their own coloring book for the additional verses.

Resources

Books

Cole, Joanna. *Magic School Bus: Lost in Space*. New York: Scholastic Publishing, 1990.

Gibbons, Gail. *The Planets*. New York: Holiday House Publishers, 1998.

Nelson Jr., Ray. *Connie & Bonnie's Birthday Blastoff*. Hillsboro, Oregon: Beyond Words Publishing, 1995.

Rabe, Tish. *There's No Place Like Space!* New York: Random House Publishing, 1999.

Web sites

<http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/resources/explorations/trading/>

<http://www.spacekids.com/solarsystem/>

http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/solar_system/index.cfm

<http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/themes/space.shtml>

The Planets in our Solar System

There are nine planets in our solar system (just nine)

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2

Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars

3

Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune

4

And Pluto orbit 'round our star the Sun (just nine)

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