



The Solar System

Target Audience: K-5th grade

Description: Students will explore the planets in our solar system and learn key concepts about the orbits of various planets. Youth will learn about the moon, sun, stars, meteorites and gravity through cooperative group work, videos, making models, learning about how toys work in space, and having group discussions.

Format: Each of these sessions can be presented in one class period from 45-60 minutes.

Session 1: All About Planets

Students learn about the planets in the solar system through watching a video and creating mnemonic devices to help them remember the order of the planets.

Session 2: The Solar System

Youth explore the solar system by engaging in a group activity regarding orbit, doing a worksheet and creating a unique solar system in small groups.

Session 3: The Moon

Students learn about the moon through group reading, discussing and creating a model of the moon while working in small groups.

Session 4: Stars and Constellations

Youth have a large group discussion about stars and constellations to learn important facts about the topic. They will also read a story about the history of constellations out loud in a group. Students are then asked to create their own stars and constellations.

Session 5: The Magic School Bus: Out of This World

Youth are introduced to concepts like asteroid, comets, and meteorites and then watch a Magic School Bus Video. Students then analyze a sample of

a meteorite and will discuss their sample in a large group while using appropriate vocabulary.

Session 6:

Toys in Space

Students explore the concept of microgravity through the exploration of toys on earth. Youth watch a video about how these same toys work in the microgravity of space.

“The Solar System” curriculum and activity kit can be borrowed for one month.