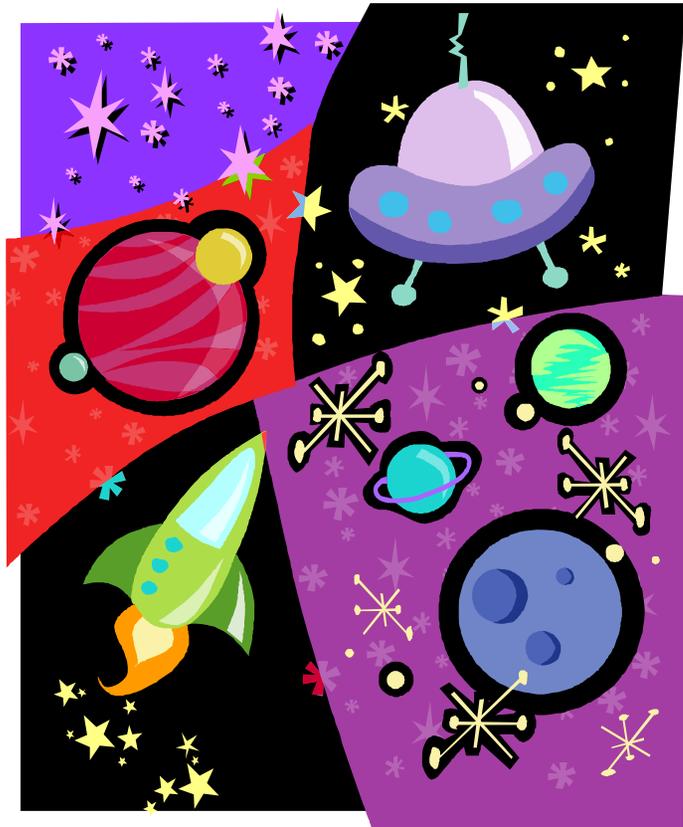


#10591 WHAT'S UP IN SPACE? PLANETS

FILM IDEAS, 2004
Grade Level: 3-6
12 Minutes
1 Instructional Graphic



CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM RELATED RESOURCES

[#3577 BILL NYE THE SCIENCE GUY: PLANETS](#)

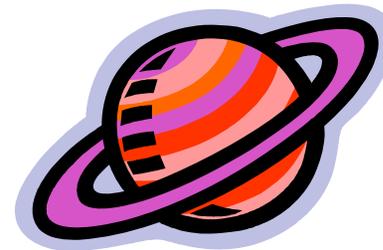
[#8849 OUR SOLAR SYSTEM](#)

[#10582 HOW AND WHY: VOLUME 7--PLANETS AND SPACE TRAVEL](#)

[#10590 WHAT'S UP IN SPACE? MARS](#)

[#10592 WHAT'S UP IN SPACE? EARTH](#)

film ideas, inc.
SINCE 1979



PLANETS

There are nine planets in our solar system, and each one is unique. From blazing hot Mercury, through the rings of Saturn and all the way out to tiny Pluto, all of the planets are explored in this program. The relationship of each planet to the sun is also explained.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

<http://www.astronomy.com/content/static/AstroForKids/>

http://www.kidsastronomy.com/solar_system.htm

<http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/>

<http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/sso/kids/>

Solar System

by Stuart Atkinson, Julian Baum (Illustrator), Andrew Peters (Illustrator), Sebastian Quigley (Illustrator)

Solar System

by Margaret J. Goldstein

Astronomy: Discoveries, Solar System, Stars, Universe

by Carole Stott

Exploring Our Solar System

by Tam E. O'Shaughnessy, Tam O'Shaughnessy

ASSESSMENT OF PRIOR KNOWLEDGE:

What is the solar system?

What are the planets in our solar system?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Which of the planets would you most like to visit and why?

Knowing about the planet you are about to visit, what special equipment would you take with you to help you survive?

Why is Earth the only planet that we know of to be inhabited by living things? What makes Earth so special?

Besides Earth, which of the planets do you think would be the best for sustaining life? What do living things need to survive?

FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES:

Students can study planets in teams or as individuals. Once they have become an expert on their planet they can act as ambassadors for their planet, making flags and posters, and sharing new information that they learn.

Students can design imaginary spacecraft to accomplish imaginary missions into space. What questions would students like to answer about the solar system? What kind of craft would they need to design to complete their mission?

VOCABULARY:

Solar System – The group of nine planets and their satellites that orbit the sun, the word solar means sun

Planet – A huge ball of rock or gas that orbits the sun.

Satellite – A moon that orbits a planet in space

Atmosphere – The blanket of gasses and clouds that surround a planet

Gas Giants – The outer planets in our solar system that are large and made mostly of gas, including Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

What are the nine planets in our solar system?
What is at the center of our solar system?

What do Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars all have in common?

How long is a year on Mercury?

Which planet closely resembles Earth's moon?

What is the brightest object in the night sky?

What is the hottest spot in the solar system?

How much of Earth is covered with water?

How is Mars different from Earth?

What force keeps the gas giants together?

Which is the largest planet in the solar system? What is the huge spot on its surface?

What are Saturn's rings made of? Is Saturn the only planet with rings?

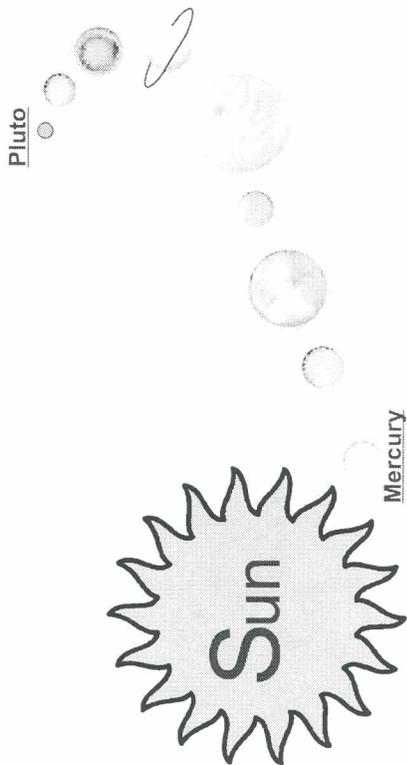
What makes Uranus different from the other planets in the solar system?

What gives Neptune its blue green color?

What makes scientists think that Pluto may not be a planet at all?

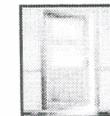
DIAGRAM:

Study the diagram of the solar system below. Knowing that planet Mercury is closest to the sun and planet Pluto is farthest from the sun where are the remaining planets in the solar system?



WHAT'S UP IN SPACE SERIES (7-PART)

- EARTH
- EXPLORING SPACE
 - MARS
 - MOON
 - PLANETS
 - STARS
 - SUN



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