



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

THE SOLAR SYSTEM FROM 1 TO 10

This book is suitable to use while teaching Grade 6 Science. Each number in the book could be used as a starting point for specific learning and research.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Have the students brainstorm and list
 - ◆ as many names of planets as they can;
 - ◆ as many words about space as they can.
- ◆ Have the students try to think of a space word for each letter of the alphabet. This can be an ongoing list to which you add as the students learn more. For example:
 - ◆ A – asteroid
 - ◆ B – black hole
 - ◆ C – comet

POST-READING ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Have the students research Galileo Galilei, the 17th-century Italian astronomer who is sometimes called the “father of modern science.”
- ◆ Ask the students to research which planets have moons, and how many moons each planet has. Then, have the students graph the moons/planets.
- ◆ Have the students make a list of the word definitions and origins found in the book; for example, the word satellite.
- ◆ Have the students investigate why is there no Apollo 13 included in the list of moon landings. Then, have them watch the space adventure film Apollo 13 as a post-unit activity.
- ◆ Teach the students the following acrostic memory strategy to help them remember the order of the planets from the sun:
My Very Excited Mother Just Made Us Noodles.
- ◆ Have the students research why Pluto is no longer considered a planet.

- ◆ Have the students investigate how many times the International Space Station (ISS) would orbit the Earth each day.
- ◆ Have the students use playdough and the following chart to make a scale model of the planets.

PLANET	ACTUAL SIZE DIAMETER	SCALE SIZE DIAMETER
Mercury	4,879.4 km	2 cm
Venus	12,104 km	5 cm
Earth	12,756 km	5 cm
Mars	6,792 km	2.5 cm
Jupiter	142,984 km	57 cm
Saturn	120,536 km	48 cm
Uranus	51,118 km	20.5 cm
Neptune	49,528 km	19.5 cm

- ◆ Tell the students to pretend they are on a journey through the solar system, and have them research about each planet. Then, have them write and illustrate a postcard home with facts about each planet. Bind the postcards together as a book.
- ◆ Have the students make ice-cream comet models that they can eat. For instructions, visit the NASA website page “Make a Comet Model and Eat It!” at <<https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/deepimpact/educ/IceCream02.html>>.

RESOURCES

CHECK OUT THIS SOLAR SYSTEM RESOURCE ONLINE

- ◆ Check out the solar system exploration education page from the NASA website for several more student activities: <<https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/educ/lessons>>.