



WORLD SPACE WEEK

By Vanessa Reis Esteves

Segment: Young Learners

Level: Elementary

Materials: handout, quiz (1 per group), flashcards of the planets, chant (see below), space trip props (see below for materials required), bell, timer, camera/phone to film the children singing.

Teaching objectives/Learning aims:

Objectives	Aims
1. To make the children more aware of International Space Week.	1. I can explain what space week is and why we celebrate it.
2. To teach the names and order of the planets.	2. I can name the planets in the correct order.
3. To teach the children to pronounce the names of the planets correctly.	3. I can pronounce the names of the planets correctly in English.
4. To teach the children an interesting fact about each planet.	4. I can share an interesting fact about each planet.
5. To get the children to co-operate with their group and to respect the rules of the competition/game.	5. I can work with others and respect the game rules.
6. To get the children to complete a space quiz.	6. I can associate facts about the planets to complete a quiz.



Lesson procedure

1. Discuss the learning objectives of the lesson with the children. Explain what and when International Space Week is and why it's important.

Background information at: <http://www.worldspaceweek.org>

Since its United Nations declaration in 1999, World Space Week has grown into the largest public space event on Earth. More than 2,700 events in 86 countries celebrated the benefits of space and excitement about space exploration in 2016. With our new Theme "Exploring New Worlds In Space" we aim to inspire even more events around the world in October 2017.

"The General Assembly declares 4 to 10 October World Space Week to celebrate each year at the international level the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition"

UN General Assembly resolution, 6 December 1999

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Space_Week

On December 6, 1999, The United Nations General Assembly declared World Space Week as an annual event celebration to be commemorated between October 4–10. The choice of dates was based on recognition of two important dates in space history: the launch of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, on October 4, 1957; and the signing of the Outer Space Treaty on October 10, 1967.

2. Invite the children to learn more about space with you saying that today we are going to learn the order of the planets and then get to experience a bit of what space is like so that they can complete a space quiz.
3. Show an image of the order of the planets and introduce the names. Have flashcards with the planets' names and wave the flashcard as you say each one. Then, get the children to say a planet and wave the corresponding flashcard. After a few turns, swap roles with the children. Hand out the flashcards and get the children to stand in line in the order of the planets:

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune

4. Introduce the chant below and get the children to repeat it with you three times. Use different volumes to make the activity more fun. Start off saying the chant on a volume 3 voice (whisper). The, repeat using a volume 5 voice, and finally, when the children have mastered the chant, get them to use a volume 8 voice. As you say the name of each planet, get the child holding the word card to jump forward and then go back to his/her place in the line. (Sing the chant slowly so there is time for the children to do this.) After a few goes, put the word cards up on the blackboard and gradually turn them over so that the children are encouraged to remember the chant until they no longer need the vocabulary support. As the children sing, point to the corresponding flashcard on the board. When the children can sing the chant on their own, make a video recording of them singing.

Sun, sun

First the sun

The sun is always number one

Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars

Earth and Mars, Earth and Mars

Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune


Uranus and Neptune, Uranus and Neptune

Eight, eight

Isn't that great?

There are 8 planets around the sun



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- Hand out the worksheet and get the children to complete it individually. Once they have finished, get them to check their answers with a partner and then correct as a class.
 - Tell the children that now they know the order of the planets, they are going to go on a quick space trip to find out more about each planet and to complete a short quiz. Each group must go to each station to find out a fact to help them answer the questions. The group that completes the quiz fastest and correctly is the winner. (Use a digital timer to help you time each group.) Once the group has completed the quiz, the group leader must ring a bell to let the teacher know that they have finished.
 - Divide the class into 4-5 groups and set up the space trip. Invite the groups to go on the trip and complete the quiz. Stress that there can be more than one question about each planet. The children should read through the quiz in their groups before they start the space trip.



Space trip details

There should be one space station for each planet in the order of the planets from the sun. The whole space trip should be organised in a clockwise circle to help the children move from station to station. Each space station is made up of a cardboard box with a small hole/slit on the top and a balloon with the planet's name of it. There is something in each box which helps the children learn a fact about each planet. The children must use the info at each station to complete the planet quiz.

Station	Description of box contents	Material required
Mercury	Dry sand and tin foil balls to teach the children that Mercury's surface is dry and rough.	-The smallest balloon -Dry sand and lots of medium sized tinfoil balls
Venus	A filled hot water bottle to teach the students that the temperature is very hot on this planet.	-A green balloon the same size as the Earth's. -A hot water bottle with hot water in it.
Earth	A plant and a toy animal so that the children learn that this is the only planet with life on it.	-A green balloon that is the same size as Venus'. -a plant -a toy animal
Mars	A big mountain made of playdough surrounded by red sand so the children's hands turn red when they touch it. Consult: http://www.wikihow.com/Dye-Sand to find out how to dye sand red.	-A red balloon that is the 2 nd smallest. -A big mountain made of playdough or paper Mache. - red sand.

Space trip details - continued

Station	Description of box contents	Material required
Jupiter	A photo of a big storm. The slit in this box should be wide enough for the children to peep in and see what's inside.	-A purple balloon, the largest balloon. -A picture of a storm on the base/floor of the box.
Saturn	12 cardboard rings.	- A white balloon, the 2 nd largest. -12 cardboard rings
Uranus	27 balls/marbles. The interior of the box should be painted blue/green.	-A blue balloon -27 marbles/small balls -Blue/green paint
Neptune	White cotton wool balls.	-A blue balloon, the 3 rd largest. -A packet of white cotton wool balls.



8. Go back to the lesson objectives and analyse what the children have learned in class today.

Show the children the video of them singing the chant and discuss what they did well and should repeat in the future and what they still have to tweak. Then, upload the video on the school webpage/Facebook page to share it with the children's families.



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Planet Group Quiz - Answer Key

Statement	Answer (name of planet)
1. This is the smallest planet.	Mercury
2. This is the biggest planet.	Jupiter
3. This planet looks like it is red.	Mars
4. This is the closest planet to the sun.	Mercury
5. This is the hottest planet.	venus
6. This planet has got lots of clouds around it.	Neptune
7. This is the farthest planet from the sun.	Neptune
8. This planet has terrible weather. It's always very stormy there.	Jupiter
9. This planet has a lot of iron and a dry surface.	Mercury
10. This planet is the same size as the Earth.	Venus
11. This planet has got lots of moons.	Uranus
12. This planet has got the highest mountain.	Mars
13. This planet is the only planet with life on it.	Earth
14. This planet has got lots of rings.	Saturn
15. This is the seventh planet from the sun.	Uranus