

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a better understanding of the solar system, including the names, order, and characteristics of the planets, as well as the role of the sun and other celestial bodies.

Materials and Prep

- Pencil and paper for note-taking and drawings
- Access to a computer or tablet for research (optional)
- Space to move around for activities
- Time to dedicate to the lesson (approximately 1-2 hours)

Before the lesson, it may be helpful to have a basic understanding of the solar system's structure and the names of the planets.

Activities

- **Planet Walk:** The student can create a scaled model of the solar system in their backyard or a large room, placing each planet at a distance proportional to their distance from the sun. This will give them a sense of the vastness of space.

During the Planet Walk, the student will learn about each planet's characteristics as they walk to each one, describing what makes each planet unique.

- **Planet Fact Cards:** The student will create fact cards for each planet, including information such as diameter, distance from the sun, and any interesting facts.

This activity encourages the student to research and summarize information in their own words, reinforcing their understanding.

- **Solar System Song:** The student can create a catchy song or rhyme to remember the order of the planets from the sun.

Music is a great way to memorize information, and this fun activity allows creativity while learning.

- **Creative Drawing:** The student can draw their favorite planet or create a poster of the solar system, labeling each planet and adding fun facts.

This artistic approach helps reinforce the knowledge gained during the lesson and allows for personal expression.

Talking Points

- "The solar system consists of the sun, eight planets, and other celestial bodies like moons, asteroids, and comets."
- "The planets are divided into two groups: terrestrial planets, which are rocky, and gas giants, which are mostly made of gases."
- "The order of the planets from the sun is Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune."
- "Did you know that Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system and has a storm called the Great Red Spot?"
- "The sun is a star and is the center of our solar system; it provides the light and heat

necessary for life on Earth."

- "Each planet has unique features, such as rings, moons, or extreme temperatures."