

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to identify and name the planets in our solar system, understand their basic characteristics, and create a fun representation of each planet using play-doh.

Materials and Prep

- Play-doh (various colors)
- Flat surface for working
- Optional: Paper and crayons for drawing planets

Before the lesson, review the names and order of the planets in the solar system. Familiarize yourself with some fun facts about each planet to share with the student.

Activities

- **Planet Creation:** Using play-doh, the student will create models of the eight planets. Encourage them to use different colors to represent each planet's unique features (e.g., blue for Earth, red for Mars).
- **Planet Order Game:** After creating the planets, the student will arrange them in the correct order from the Sun. You can use a circle on the floor to represent the Sun and place the planets around it.
- **Planet Facts Sharing:** After creating and arranging the planets, the student will share one fun fact about each planet. You can help them with the facts if needed.
- **Drawing the Solar System:** Finally, using paper and crayons, the student can draw their favorite planet or the whole solar system, incorporating the colors they used in their play-doh models.

Talking Points

- "Can you tell me the name of the planet closest to the Sun? It's Mercury!"
- "What color do you think Earth is? That's right, it's blue and green!"
- "Did you know that Jupiter is the biggest planet? It's like a giant ball in the sky!"
- "Mars is called the Red Planet. What color play-doh do you want to use for it?"
- "Look at our solar system! Each planet is special and has its own place. Which one is your favorite?"