

Lesson Plan

Planet Facts

Book: *The Planets*

Series: Space

Level: Beacon

Objective

To have students demonstrate comprehension of key details from a text about the planets in Earth's solar system.

Supplies

- Several copies of *The Planets*
- Planet Facts worksheet (attached)
- Whiteboard
- Pencils

Before the Activity

Print a copy of the Planet Facts worksheet for each student. Read *The Planets* out loud, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

After reading *The Planets*, ask students the following questions, writing their answers on the whiteboard:

- What are the names of the planets in our solar system? (Answers: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune)
- What three rules must an object follow to be a planet? (Answers: The object must orbit the Sun, must be shaped like a ball, and must clear its orbit.)

Invite volunteers to share facts about each planet in the solar system. These facts can be information students learned from the book or that they knew already. These answers do not need to be written on the board.

- Sample Answers: Neptune is the furthest planet from the Sun; Mars is a red color because of iron in the ground; Earth is the only planet where life has been found; Saturn's rings are made of rock and ice; etc.

Then, divide students into groups of four or five. Give each group a copy of *The Planets* and give each student a copy of the Planet Facts worksheet. Students should use the information from the book to determine which planet each sentence describes and write that planet's name

in the space below the sentence. Students can look back through their group's copy of the book if they get stuck.

Evaluation

Collect the worksheets at the end of class. Use the attached answer key to give each student 1 point for each correct answer, for up to 8 points total.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grades 3 and 4 (RI 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2).

Planet Facts

Write the name of the planet each sentence describes in the space below it.

1. Voyager 1 and 2 found active volcanoes on one of this planet's moons.
2. This planet has a hot, windy surface.
3. This outer planet is the farthest planet from the Sun.
4. A probe reached this planet in 2004 and studied the planet's rings and moons.
5. The Perseverance rover landed on this planet in 2021.
6. This planet is third from the Sun.
7. After 1609, telescopes could be used to see Neptune and this planet.
8. A probe was sent to this planet in 2018 to learn about the planet's magnetic field.

Planet Facts **ANSWER KEY**

Write the name of the planet each sentence describes in the space below it.

1. Voyager 1 and 2 found active volcanoes on one of this planet's moons.

Jupiter

2. This planet has a hot, windy surface.

Venus

3. This outer planet is the farthest planet from the Sun.

Neptune

4. A probe reached this planet in 2004 and studied the planet's rings and moons.

Saturn

5. The Perseverance rover landed on this planet in 2021.

Mars

6. This planet is third from the Sun.

Earth

7. After 1609, telescopes could be used to see Neptune and this planet.

Uranus

8. A probe was sent to this planet in 2018 to learn about the planet's magnetic field.

Mercury