

Space Day

Actual Holiday: First Friday in May

First Celebrated: 1997



Introduction

Space Day was created by aerospace company Lockheed Martin to encourage young people to learn about space and space exploration. Space is a fascinating subject for students at any age, whether they are dreaming about traveling to Mars or wondering why some stars are so much brighter than others. This day is celebrated internationally, so people all over the world will be looking up and turning their attention to the mysteries of space. Celebrate this day in your classroom by helping your students learn a bit more about the planets and play a guessing game.

Materials

- *The Planets* activity sheet (page 31)
- scissors
- crayons or colored pencils (brown, gray, yellow, orange, red, blue, green, light blue, and purple)

The Activity

- Tell students that you will be celebrating Space Day today by playing a guessing game about the planets. Before you can play the game, though, students will need to color and cut out the planets on *The Planets* activity sheet. Do this as a class by having students listen to you tell them what colors to use for each planet, one at a time.

- Color Mercury gray or brown.
- Color Venus yellow.
- Color Earth blue and green.
- Color Mars red.
- Color Jupiter's stripes yellow and orange.
- Color Saturn's stripes and rings yellow and brown.
- Color Uranus light blue.
- Color Neptune purple.

- Once students have colored the planets, have them cut out each one and place the planets face up on their desks for the game.
- Tell students that getting an incorrect answer is all part of the game.
- Read the following questions to students along with any planet questions of your choosing. After they hear a question, they should decide which planet is the answer, then place the card of that planet at the front of their desks.

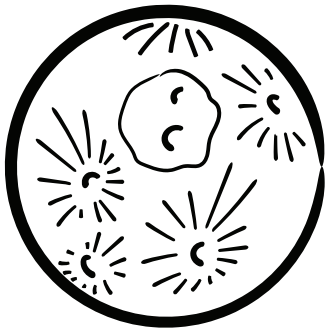
- Which planet is the brightest in the solar system? (*Venus*)
- Which planet is the smallest? (*Mercury*)
- Which planet has a lot of rusty iron in the ground? (*Mars*)
- Which planet is almost twice as big as all the other planets combined? (*Jupiter*)
- Which planet is 71% water? (*Earth*)
- Which is the only planet that spins on its side? (*Uranus*)
- Which is the only planet you cannot see without a telescope? (*Neptune*)
- Which planet has the most moons? (*Saturn*)

- Discuss the game with the class. Did they know any of the answers before they played? Were some answers easy to figure out? Were they surprised when they guessed correctly?

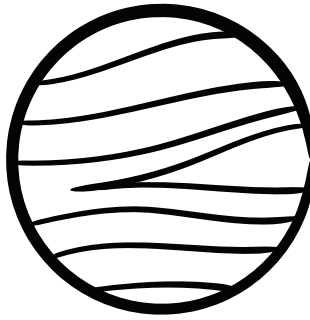
Name: _____

The Planets

Mercury



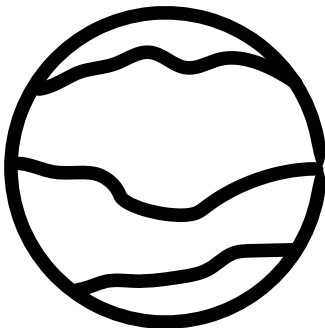
Venus



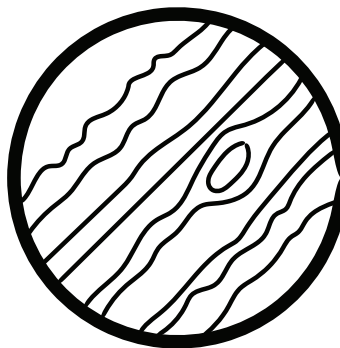
Earth



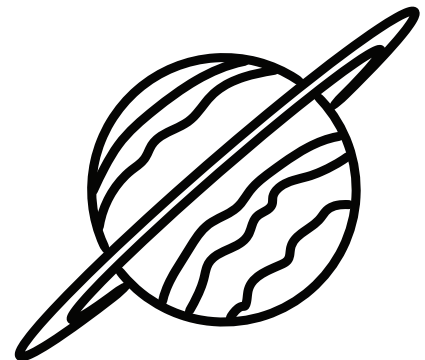
Mars



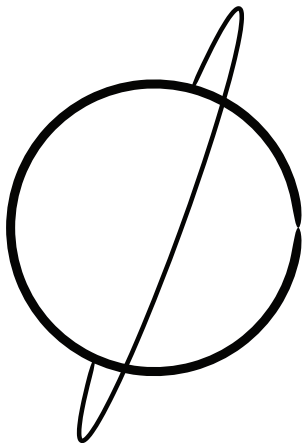
Jupiter



Saturn



Uranus



Neptune

