

Planet Lesson

What Was Taught

Key Concepts Taught:

1. Each planet has unique characteristics

- Planets are different sizes
- Planets are made of different materials
- Planets have unique orbits around the sun

2. The sun is central to all the orbits of the planets

- All planets orbit around the sun
- The sun is at the center of the solar system
- The sun provides energy in the form of light and heat

3. The earth and moon have their own special relationship to each other:

- The moon's gravitational pull affects tides on earth.
- The moon orbits around the earth once every 30 days.
- We always see the same side of the moon.

Websites Used in Research and Demonstrations:

http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/index.cfm	Great for planet facts and photos
http://nineplanets.org/	Good overview of solar system
http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/space/solar-system/	Fantastic tool to compare planet sizes. Good facts about planets.
http://www.msnuceus.org/membership/html/k-6/uc/earth/4/uce4_2a.html	Good facts about Earth-Moon Relationship

Vocabulary Taught:

Orbit, Planet, Heat, Gravity, Sun, Energy, Rotation, Earth, Gas, Tide, Star

Important Facts Taught:

- ✓ The earth rotates on its axis once every 24 hours
- ✓ The sun is the center of our Solar System
- ✓ The sun is 93 million miles from the earth
- ✓ The moon orbits around the earth once every 30 days
- ✓ The sun provides heat and light to the earth
- ✓ Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system (it is bigger than all planets combined!)
- ✓ Saturn has rings
- ✓ The sun is a star
- ✓ Pluto is now considered a “dwarf planet” and it is the furthest from the sun.
- ✓ Venus is the brightest planet and can be easily seen with the naked eye
- ✓ Mercury is the closest planet to the sun
- ✓ Mars is known as the “Red Planet” because of the red dirt on the planet
- ✓ Our Solar System has 8 planets and 1 dwarf planet
- ✓ Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon (July 20, 1969)