

**Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
KINDERGARTEN**

Title of Lesson: Creating a Solar System

Theme: Earth/Space Science

Unit Number: 3 **Unit Title:** Space, Time and Gravity

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter codes):

SKCS4

SKP3

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Space, planets, planet motion

Learning Activity (Description in Steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters): This activity helps kids recognize how many planets there are, what they look like, etc.

Details: When I blew up the planets' orbits I transferred them by silver sharpie onto black paper by tracing. Then I found a picture with all the planets. I then numbered the back of the picture. The numbers on the back corresponded to where the planet was in the solar system (i.e. one being the first planet from the sun, two being the second, and so on). I divided this project up into two days. The first day we colored all the planets and cut them. Here I used the book to give them examples of what each planet should look like. Then we placed the planets in plastic bags for safe keeping. The next day we glued the planets onto their orbits. The planet with one on the back went on the first line; the one with a two went on the second line, and so on until all the planets were on the paper. Finally each student had created their own Solar System. Throughout this whole process be sure to ask questions about what planets they are coloring and what makes certain planets different from the other ones.

Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):

A picture of the planets' orbits blown up (see source 1)

A picture of all the planets (see source 2)

Crayons

Scissors

Plastic bags

Glue

Picture book of solar systems

Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):

Number the backs of the planets in order so that when they are cut out they can still be put in order.

Sources/References:

1) <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/astronomy/solarsystem>

2) <http://atozteacherstuff.com/go/jump1.cgi?ID=1471>

3)