

Our Amazing Solar System

1. Define the solar system. What all does it include?
2. Name the planets in order.
3. Why was the planet Pluto taken off the list of planets in our solar system? What is a minor or dwarf planet?
4. Make a model or diorama of the planets.
5. Make a booklet or fact file with a few facts about each planet, include the sun and moon.
6. Play a game about the solar system.
7. Learn about gravity and the moon. Conduct an experiment about gravity.
8. Learn about comets, meteor and asteroids. How are they alike/different?
9. Memorize Genesis 1:16 and illustrate the verse.

Helps

1. The system containing the Sun and the bodies held in its gravitational field, including the planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto) the asteroids, and comets.
2. My Very Excited Mother Just Served Us Noodles (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune)
3. Pluto does not meet all three criteria that now define a planet. A planet must orbit around the Sun, have sufficient mass to maintain a nearly round shape, and it must have cleared the neighborhood around its orbit.
4. Put together a solar system planet kit or make a diorama from a cardboard box and Styrofoam balls or clay balls, etc. Look online for more ideas.
5. Have the children collect the data as you talk with them about the planets and the solar system. Look online for ideas on how to present the data.
6. Suggestions include Concentration, Jeopardy, memory or matching games. You can find ready-made games on the solar system or online are ideas.
7. Experiment with jumping and how it would be different on the moon without gravity. If you were on the moon you would be jumping higher than your parent's head. The two books listed in #8 talk about gravity. Online you can find creative ways to teach kids about gravity.
8. *Little Kids First Big Book of Space* by Catherine D. Hughes and *A Childs Introduction to the Night Sky* by Michael Driscoll. Online and the library are sources of information as well.
9. The children can draw a picture or make a collage—there are many ways to illustrate, let them use their imaginations.