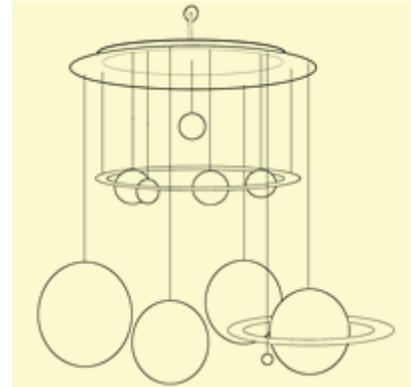


Solar System Mobile Activity

With the aid of clues found in "The Solar System I'm Rhyme" song, your child will learn about the characteristics and sizes of the planets in our solar system and create their own "Solar System on a String" mobile.

What You Need:

- White cardstock paper
- Crayons, markers, or map pencils
- Tape
- Large oval Chinette plate
- A large orange pom-pom (for the Sun)
- String
- A pen, pencil, or marker to label the planets
- A large paper clip
- Planets Template
- A copy of the Solar System "I'm" Rhyme



What to Do:

- Invite your children to make a solar system mobile. As you are working, sing or read "The Solar System I'm Rhyme".
 - Can they identify the Sun, planets, and asteroid belt by their characteristics?*
 - What is the order of the planets?*
 - What are their relative sizes?*
- Provide your child with the planets template and have them *first* color the planets, *then* cut out and label them. Other than the Sun, the planets are correctly scaled relative to each other.
- Give your child a paper plate and mobile template and help them mark on the plate the positions where the Sun, planets, and asteroid belt will be attached.
- Help your child cut the string to the appropriate lengths and attach them to the designated bodies:
 - One – 5-inch string for the Sun*
 - Eight – 10-inch strings for the four inner rocky planets and the asteroid belt*
 - Five – 12-inch strings for the four outer giants and little Pluto*
- Invite them to tape the string ends of each planetary body to the paper plate in the locations marked. The pom-pom Sun belongs in the center. Make sure Jupiter and Saturn are on opposite, outer sides, so that the mobile is balanced.
- To hang the mobile, tape each end of a long piece of string to opposite ends of the plate.

The Solar System "I'm" Rhyme

I'm the one star in this special place.
You'll find me in the center.
Just guess my name to start this game,
then you may surely enter.....

I orbit fast, but s l o w l y turn,
With a 1,416 hour day!
I'm the first. My name is _____,
I'm small and I am gray.

Because my ghastly atmosphere is mainly CO₂,
It's like a scorching greenhouse of 900 degrees. It's true!
My name is _____, I'm yellow and the hottest,
And all I can say is, "Whew!"

I'm glad I'm home to boys and girls,
Even though I do seem "blue",
I'm Planet _____.
and a little larger than Venus (that's your clue!)

I'm reddish-rust, with rocks and dust
And a 24-hour day.
I'm _____ and I am close in size
To Mercury, I'd say!

I'm a band that's full of rocks and dust
That travel in between
The Inner and Outer Solar System's planetary scene.
And because I'm a band of asteroids, I felt,
I should be called The _____.

I'm full of gas, with colorful stripes,
And a really enormous girth.
I am mighty _____ and
I'm over ten times the size of Earth!

I'm yellow and my ammonia haze
covers each and every thing.
I'm _____ and my beauty's
found within my icy rings!

I'm blue and stinky (it's methane gas!).
I have more than twenty moons!
I'm _____, the third gas giant;
A bit larger than neighbor Neptune.

It takes me over sixty thousand days
to go one whole year through!
I'm the last gas giant. I'm old _____,
and just a little darker blue.

I'm the smallest chunk of icy rock,
but a planet, I will not doubt!
I'm _____, and even though I'm least,
Oh, please don't kick me out!