

Put it in Perspective

In this activity, your child will learn about the distances of different objects in the sky by attempting to put into order images of Earth, Mars, the Space Shuttle, the Moon and the International Space Station.

What You Need:

-  Images of Earth, Mars, the Space Shuttle, the Moon and the International Space Station.

What To Do:

-  Using the pictures, invite your child to place the objects in order beginning with the closest – Earth!

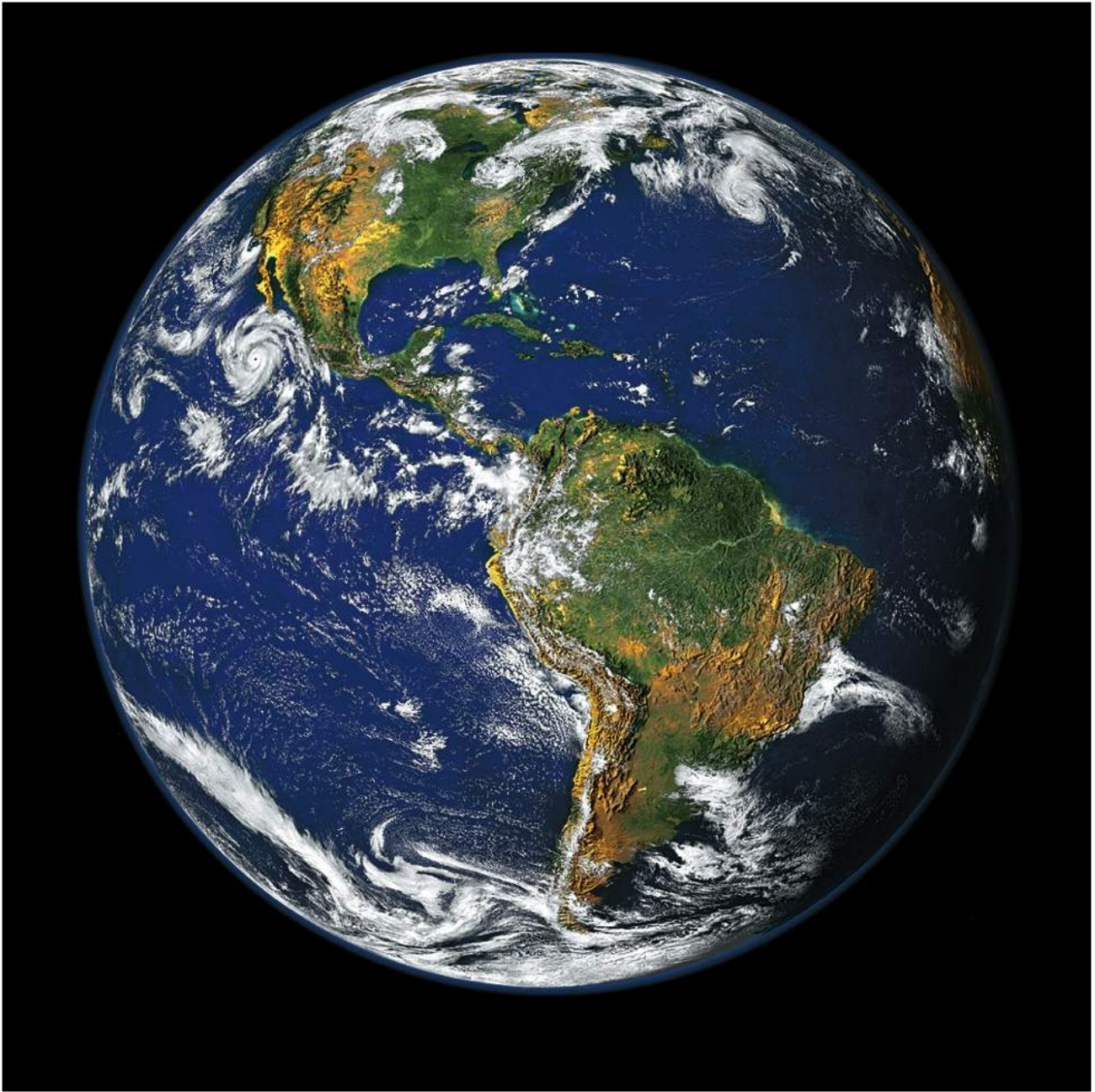
Proper order: Earth, International Space Station and Shuttle, Moon, Mars.

Many children think that the Shuttle travels to the Moon; it is not able to do so. The Shuttle and International Space Station fly at about the same distance from the surface of the Earth. The Shuttle missions typically operate at altitudes about 190 miles (300 kilometers; one resource stated that the Shuttle can fly as high as 350 miles or 560 kilometers) The International Space Station maintains an altitude of approximately 215 miles (350 kilometers) above the Earth; it often is visited by the Shuttle.

Parent Prompts:

What comes next? What object(s) is closest to Earth?
And what is the next distant object? And the next?

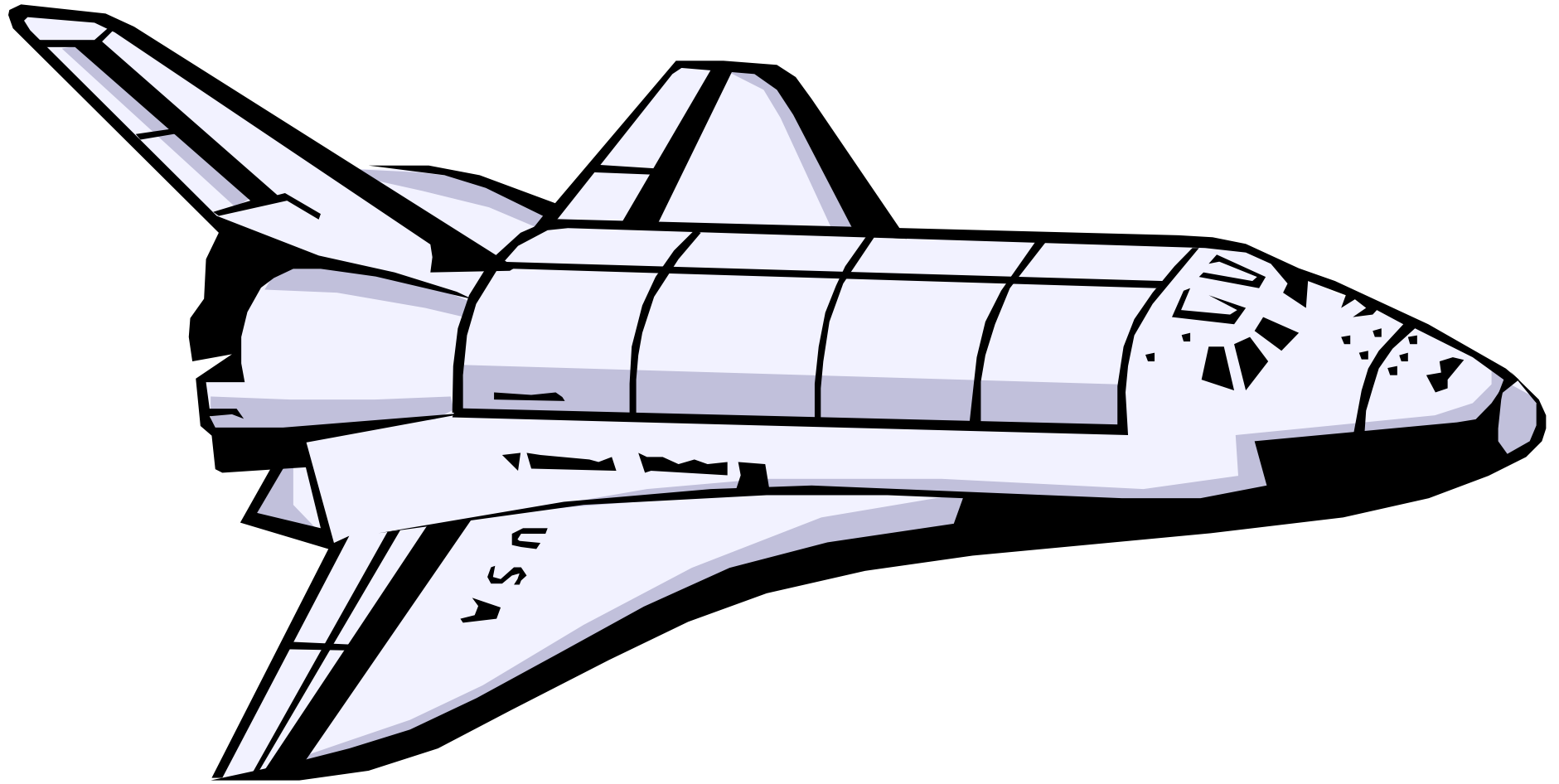




EARTH



MOON



SPACE SHUTTLE



MARS

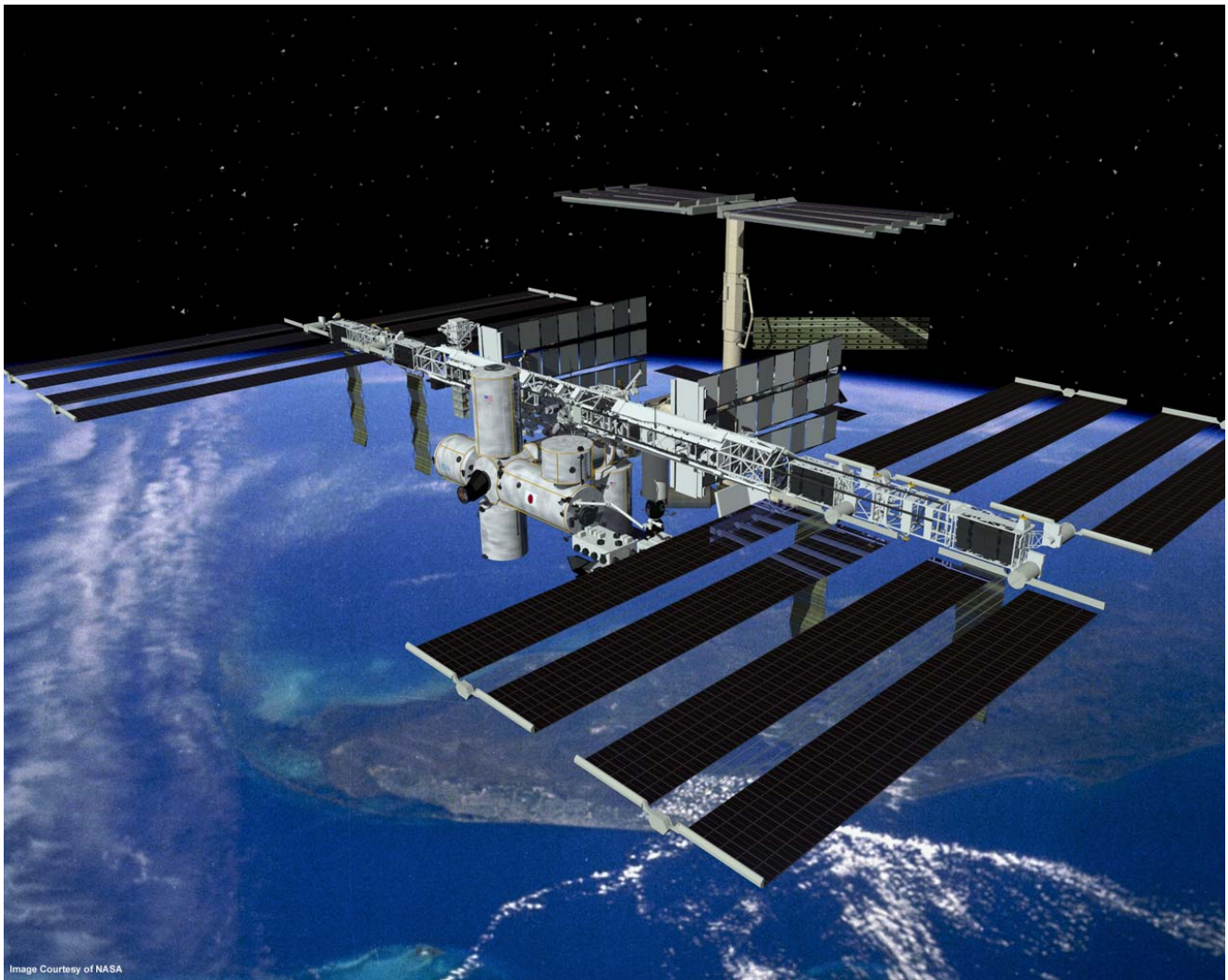


Image Courtesy of NASA

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