

The Earth in the Solar System

Earth & Space Science

Grade 3

Objectives

- Given a model of the solar system, students will be able to identify the Sun and planets (emphasizing Earth as the third planet and its moon).
- When asked about the Sun, Earth, and moon, students will be able to describe properties characteristic of each.

Standards Addressed

- Mass. Science & Technology/Engineering Framework
- Earth and Space Science, Grades 3-5
- 13. Recognize that the earth is part of a system called the “solar system” that includes the sun (a star), planets, and many moons. The earth is the third planet from the sun in our solar system.

Materials

- Prezi.com (online access, SmartBoard)
- Peas
- Varying sizes of round objects
- Blackboard

Procedures:

Activator

- Create a KWL chart on the board and have each student say one thing that they already know about Earth, the other planets, or space in general to establish any previous knowledge. Then fill in the W column with what they would like to know.
- Present the class with a visual using everyday objects: a pea will represent Earth and varying sizes of balls will represent the other planets and the Sun (i.e. a basketball as the Sun and Earth pea-sized in comparison).

Activities

- Discuss with students properties of the solar system and the individual planets using Prezi “Earth in the Solar System”.

Summarizer

- Students will be taught an acronym for remembering the order of the planets (**My Very Early Morning Jam Sandwich Usually Nauseates**).
- The L column of the KWL chart will be filled with one interesting fact learned from each student.

Homework

- Students will choose one of the eight planets and create a travel brochure advertising specific attributes of that planet, which will be presented to the class at the next meeting.

Assessment

- Students will be required to participate in class by providing at least one fact for each column of the KWL chart.
- Given an illustration of the solar system, students will be required to label each part, draw rings and/or moons around respective planets, and color each according to how they are described.

Sources

- NASA’s StarChild online Learning Center and Solar System Exploration for Kids
 - <http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/StarChild.html>
 - http://sse.jpl.nasa.gov/kids/solarsys_kids.cfm