



## Fernbank Science Center

**Title:** SOLAR SYSTEM STARLAB (1409)      **Type:** Outreach  
**Level:** 4th Year      **Length:** 45 minutes  
**Location:** Local School      **Limit:** One  
class/period

### **Program Description**

Fourth grade students use the STARLAB portable planetarium to identify seasonal constellations, with the purpose of recognizing planets in the night sky. An overview of the characteristics of the eight planets of our Solar System, from Mercury to Neptune is provided.

### **Georgia Performance Standards Addressed**

- 1) **S4E2 Models the position and motion of Earth in the solar system**
- 2) **S4CS5 Communicate scientific ideas and activities clearly.**
- 3) **S4E1 Compare and contrast the physical attributes of stars, star patterns, and planets.**
  - a. **Recognize the physical attributes of stars in the night sky such as number, size, color and patterns.**

### **Vocabulary**

constellation	space probe	star
planet	planetarium	asteroid
revolution	solar system	rotation

### **Pre-Visit Activities**

Ask students to Check out NASA's StarChild web site for an excellent solar system introduction:

[http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/solar\\_system\\_level2/solar\\_system.html](http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/solar_system_level2/solar_system.html)

### **Resources:**

Harcourt Georgia Science 4: Unit A, Chapter 2, Lesson 2, pp. 69-76.  
AIMS Grade 4: pp. 299-317.

### **Notes:**

- 1) The StarLab planetarium requires a 20x20 ft. clear floor space with an 11 ft. vertical clearance. It must be in a room or space where outside noise level is low. No other activity can take place in the room during the StarLab program.
- 2) Teachers will accompany classes into the planetarium and are responsible for discipline during the programs.
- 3) StarLab is entered by crawling through a short tunnel. Please advise students to wear appropriate clothing.


### **Post-Visit Activities**

See activity below

# Solar System Starlab (1409) Post Visit Activity

*Match the Planet with its Description (use a line to connect them!)*

Mercury 

Venus 

Earth 

Mars 

**Largest planet in the Solar System**

**Planet known for its beautiful Rings**

**Planet farthest from the Sun**

**Often called the “Blue Planet”**

**Seventh planet from the Sun**

**Planet about the same size as Earth**

**Planet closest to the Sun**

**Often called the “Red Planet”**

