



Fernbank Science Center

Title: SOLAR SYSTEM: PERFECT LITTLE PLANET (1409) **Type:** Single Visit
Level: 4th Grade **Length:** 60 minutes
Location: Planetarium **Limit:** 250 students

Program Description

Fourth grade students investigate solar system objects in the night sky and compare them to stars. The positions and characteristics of the planets moons, asteroids, and comets are explored through the immersive full dome environment using the best solar system film available (e.g., Perfect Little Planet).

Georgia Performance Standards Addressed

S4E1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to compare and contrast the physical attributes of stars and planets.

- a) Ask questions to compare and contrast technological advances that have changed the amount and type of information on distant objects in the sky.
- b) Construct an explanation of the differences between stars and planets.
- d) Evaluate strengths and limitations of models of our solar system in describing relative size, order, appearance and composition of planets and the sun.

S4P1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the nature of light and how light interacts with objects.

Vocabulary

constellation	space probe	star
planet	planetarium	asteroid
revolution	solar system	rotation
comet	moon	

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

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

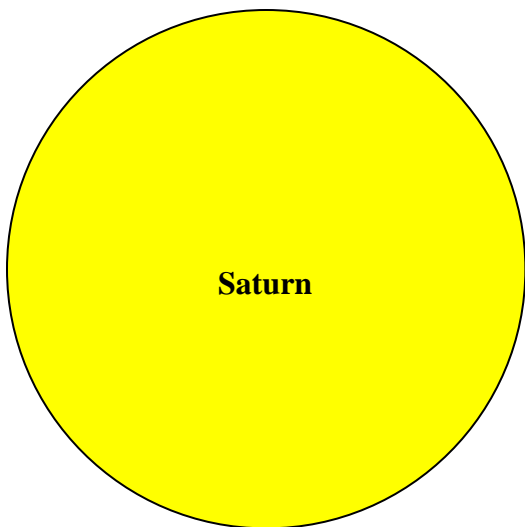
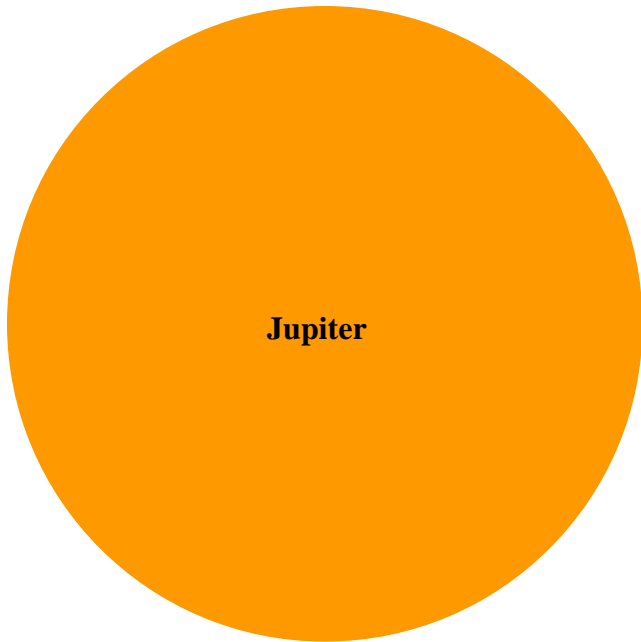
Often called the “Blue Planet”

Seventh planet from the Sun

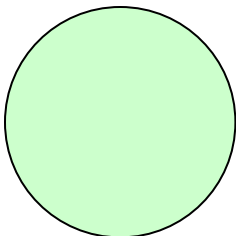
Planet about the same size as Earth

Planet closest to the Sun

Often called the “Red Planet”



Uranus



Neptune RS 016

