

LEARNING SEQUENCE: The solar system

The aim of this sequence is to revise and extend students' knowledge of our solar system, treating it as a basic topic of geography, comparing distances, sizes and other data.

I'm sitting on the moon



This first learning block introduces the user to general aspects of space, the universe and our galaxy.

Aims

- Vocabulary related to space.
- The solar system.
- The universe.
- The planets in the solar system

Teacher's notes

This block is developed over five screens.

The first screen is a visual introduction to the block.

The second screen presents some basic concepts related to space.

Screen three requires students to match words and pictures.

In screen four students read a short text about space and choose the right words.

In the final screen the students have to answer questions about space.

Approach

This block is basically designed for individual work. However, the block should present opportunities for drawing a picture of space and to include the basic

concepts included in the block.

Exploring space



This block presents a brief history of the space race from the beginnings of space exploration to modern times.

Aims

- Vocabulary related to space.
- The space race.
- The solar system.
- The universe.
- The planets in the solar system .

Teacher's notes

The first screen presents the topic with a brief summary of space exploration. In the second screen, students see how space exploration started and what the most important moments in the history of space exploration have been. Screen three requires students to complete sentences about the history of space exploration.

Screen four requires students to match the pictures and words.

In the final activity, students are asked to decide if the sentences about space exploration are true or false.

Approach

This block is basically designed for individual work. However, students could be asked to study further a particular part of the history of space exploration online. There are many great sites on the web with lots of great information.

Planets



In this block students are presented with more detailed information about each planet in our solar system.

Aims

- The planets of our solar system.
- Planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto.
- Ordinal numbers.
- Adjectives.
- Present Simple tense.
- Verb to be.

Teacher's notes

The block consists of six screens. The presentation screen presents the nine planets in our solar system.

Screen two presents students with the nine planets and how it takes each one to orbit the Sun.

Screen three introduces students to the five planets furthest from the Sun.

In screen four students are introduced to the four remaining planets including Earth.

Screen five requires students to place the planets in the correct orbit from the Sun.

Finally, students have to write the names of the nine planets based on a clue that they read about each one.

Approach

This block is basically designed for individual work. However, you can ask students to make a poster of the galaxy with the Sun and the nine planets. They should include the information about the orbit and leave space for

further information in the next blocks.

Comparing the planets



In this block students are going to compare data about the nine planets using Comparatives and Superlatives.

Aims

- Comparatives and Superlatives.
- Comparison of adjectives: -er, more ... than.
- The superlative: the smallest, the heaviest.
- Planets. Earth in the universe.
- Ordinal numbers.
- Adjectives.
- Present Simple tense.

Teacher's notes

This block has six screens. The first screen presents a short animation to introduce the language in the block.

Screens two and three present basic data about the planets: mass/weight, diameter, number of moons, distance from the Sun, number of days it takes to orbit the Sun and rotation time.

Screen four requires students to answer questions about the planets based on the information in the previous two screens.

Screen five requires students to choose the name of the planets according to the information in the sentences.

In the final screen students have to decide whether the sentences are true or false.

Approach

This block is basically designed for individual work. However, you could ask students to write sentences comparing the planets using comparatives and superlative. Also ask students to complete their posters with the information presented here.

Space Quiz



In this final block students participate in a quiz game.

Aims

- Revise the contents presented in the sequence.
- The solar system. The Earth. Rotation and movement. Space exploration.
- Comparatives and superlatives.
- Ordinal numbers.
- Adjectives.
- Present Simple tense.

Teacher's notes

The first screen presents the quiz.

In screen two, students play the quiz game.

Approach

This block is basically designed for individual work. However, you can ask students to write more quiz questions.