



Act It Out

Introduction

In the book, *Going Around the Sun: Some Planetary Fun* by Marianne Berkes, the reader is introduced to the eight planets. In this activity, students use reproducible bookmarks for a Charades game about the planets.

Materials Needed

- ◆ *Going Around the Sun: Some Planetary Fun* by Marianne Berkes
- ◆ Reproducible Bookmarks of the eight planets

Key Concepts

- ◆ Position of an object can be described relative to other objects.
- ◆ Objects can be described by their properties and classified accordingly.
- ◆ A system is an organized group of related objects or components.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. Read the book *Going Around the Sun: Some Planetary Fun* including the glossary for older students.
2. Download the eight different reproducible bookmarks for *Going Around the Sun*.
3. Pass bookmarks out to eight students (each student should have a different planet.)
4. Tell students they will be playing a number of games with the bookmarks. In this game eight students with the bookmarks will be acting out what their planet is.
5. The teacher is the "Sun" and picks the first planet. That "planet" can take a position somewhere in the room to give the class a clue what it might be.
6. The student cannot speak, but pointing and other gestures are permitted. They should move the way the planet does or give other hints ("sounds like" in Charades) to help the class guess who they are.
7. Place a time limit for each planet to add to the excitement.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Encourage children to create a model of the Solar System out of styrofoam balls and paper and have them map out the orbits of the planets. Are all of the orbits round? Have students discuss why this may or may not be the case.
- ◆ Have students choose a larger model to map out the distances of the solar system. For example, what if the school represented the sun? How far away would the different planets be in a large model? How do the two models compare to the actual solar system?

Additional Resources

Fun Astronomy Facts

- ◆ Supernovas are explosions that can destroy an entire star.
- ◆ The only star in the sky that doesn't appear to move from night to night is called Polaris, the North Star.
- ◆ The closest star to our solar system is called Proxima Centauri and it's over 4 light years away.
- ◆ The light of the Sun takes 8 minutes to reach Earth.

