



Planet Poetry

Introduction

In the book, *Going Around the Sun: Some Planetary Fun* by Marianne Berkes, the reader is introduced to the eight planets and other objects that orbit around the Sun. In this activity, students write a vertical poem describing a planet or other object that goes around the Sun.

Materials Needed

- ◆ Two sheets of paper
- ◆ Pen or pencil
- ◆ *Going Around the Sun: Some Planetary Fun* by Marianne Berkes

Key Concepts

- ◆ The Sun, Moon, stars, birds, clouds, airplanes, all have characteristics that can be observed and described.
- ◆ Objects can be described by their properties and classified accordingly.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. Read the book, *Going Around the Sun: Some Planetary Fun*.
2. Explain to students how to write a *vertical poem*, often called an *acrostic poem*, formed by using the letters of a word to begin each line in the poem.
3. Ask students to choose a planet or other object in space that goes around the sun and write the name of their topic vertically on the first sheet of paper.
4. On the other sheet of paper ask students to "brainstorm" as many words or phrases they can think of describing their "topic."
5. Next they should look at the words they "brainstormed", choosing any that begin with the same letter of the topic they wrote vertically on the first sheet.
6. Explain that an acrostic poem is not always easy to do if the topic word is difficult to match to a lot of other words, i.e. "Jupiter" is more of a challenge to write about in a vertical poem than "Mars." If a student finds one too difficult, ask him/her to try a different planet or object in space.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Suggest that students visit a planetarium in their area to learn more about our place in the universe. If there isn't one close by, take a look on the internet to find out more about planetariums.
- ◆ Invite students to observe the night sky and write a short poem about what they see. How many of the objects are natural, and how many of the objects are made by man?

Additional Resources

More Solar System Activities

<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/acrostic>

<http://www.kidzone.was/planets/index.htm>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/astronomy/planets>

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