



Same and Different

Introduction

In the book, *Going Around the Sun: Some Planetary Fun* by Marianne Berkes, the reader is introduced to the eight planets that rotate around the Sun. In this Venn Diagram activity, students describe and compare one of the four inner planets in the book with one of the four outer planets.

Materials Needed

- ◆ *Going Around the Sun: Some Planetary Fun* by Marianne Berkes
- ◆ Venn Diagram template

Key Concepts

- ◆ Use knowledge and evidence (data) to formulate explanation.
- ◆ Objects can be described by their properties and classified accordingly.
- ◆ Objects have measurable and observable properties, which use tools.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. Explain to students what a Venn diagram is and pass out blank copies.
(View <http://www.graphic.org/venbas.html> for more information on Venn diagrams.)
2. Note that shared characteristics are listed in the overlapping section, allowing for easy identification of which characteristics are similar and which are different.
3. Read the story and ask students to choose one of four "inner" planets that they would like to compare with one of the four "outer" planets.
4. Review the glossary after you have read the story, noting that the illustrations give you an idea of the sizes of the planets.
5. For older children, have them read all the back matter that can be used as a resource for this project.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Invite students to observe the night sky and keep a journal of what they see. Can they name any of the constellations? Do they see any asteroids or meteors? How can they tell if an object is a star or a planet? How much more can they see with binoculars? A telescope? What other tools can they use to observe the sky?
- ◆ Study the cover of *Going Around the Sun*, pointing out that Pluto had been "Planet Number 9." Ask students to write a sequel about *dwarf planets*.

Additional Resources

Solar System Activities from the Internet

<http://www.planetary.org/explore/kids>

<http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/index.html>

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education>

<http://stardust.jpl.nasa.gov/classroom/guides.html>

