



Showtime!

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 either perform a Reader's Theater, or "sing" the story in a movement activity.

Materials Needed

- ◆ *Going Around the Sun: Some Planetary Fun* by Marianne Berkes
- ◆ Script for a Reader's Theater
- ◆ Felt costumes for the Sun and planets

Procedure

1. Read the book *Going Around the Sun: Some Planetary Fun* including the glossary for older students.
- 2A. Explain to students that they are going to put a script together with a narrator and ten or more characters, based on the book for a Reader's Theater. Students may decide to add more characters to their script, e.g. other dwarf planets and asteroids and comets. (The narrator would read the prose at the bottom of each page, while each "planet" would read the verse.)
- 3A. Students line up in order of the planets and read their verse. (The person that is in line first - The Sun - could be the narrator.)
- 2B. Younger students dress up as the planets. Costumes can be made using different colors of felt material. (See photo on "Tips from the Author" page in the book.)
- 3B. Students "sing" their verse to the tune of "Over in the Meadow" as they go around Mother Sun, or other students in the class sing the story as each planet acts out his/her motion: whirl, sparkle, tilt, etc.

Key Concepts

- ◆ A system is an organized group of related objects or components.
- ◆ Models can be used in explanations.
- ◆ Position of an object can be described relative to other objects.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Nature Connections

- ◆ In reader's theater, students "perform" by reading scripts without costumes or props. It's a way to enhance the student's reading skills since they practice reading with a purpose, while getting a better understanding of what is being read.
- ◆ For younger students who cannot "perform" a Reader's Theater, acting out the motions and singing the story gives them greater understanding of the book. They are "learning by doing" and having fun!
- ◆ For more information about readers theatre, see the IRA web site at:
<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/readers-theatre-172.html>

Additional Resources

Fun Facts About The Moon

- ◆ The Moon is 239,000 miles away from the Earth.
- ◆ The Moon is covered in many bowl shaped holes called *craters*.
- ◆ Neil Armstrong was the first human being to step onto the surface of the Moon.
- ◆ The dark spots on the Moon are caused by ancient lava flows created when asteroids hit the surface of the Moon and cracked the surface.

