



Line Up

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 the reproducible bookmarks to line up in the order of the planets.

Materials Needed

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

Key Concepts

- ◆ Systems have levels of organization.
- ◆ Objects in the sky have patterns of movement.
- ◆ Models can be used in explanations.

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 reproducible bookmarks for *Going Around the Sun*. Make enough copies for each student in your class since you can use them for more activities.
3. Pass bookmarks out to eight students in the class. (Each student should have a different planet.)
4. Tell students they will be playing a number of games with the bookmarks and the first game requires eight students to line up in the order of the planets.
5. Ask: "Will the student who has 'Mercury' please come to the front of the room?"
6. Ask: "What is the next planet that is closest to the Sun? Please come up and stand next to Mercury." Do this until eight students are lined up in the correct order of the planets.

Nature Connections

- ◆ A fun way for young children to remember the order of the planets is by memorizing this sentence. The beginning letter of each word is the same letter as the planet:

My Very Excellent Mother
Just Served Us Nachos

- ◆ Have students research asteroids, comets and meteors. Discuss the differences between the three. Where would asteroids, comets and meteors appear in the "human model" activity described above?

Additional Resources

Fun Facts about Asteroids

- ◆ There is an asteroid belt in the solar system which sits between the orbits of Jupiter and Mars.
- ◆ Some asteroids are no bigger than a grain of sand, while others can be more than 100 miles across.
- ◆ Asteroids are often called *dirty snowballs*, as they are made up of mostly frozen gas.
- ◆ Some asteroids are thrown out of the belt and become *comets*.

