



# Space Wall Mix-Up

## 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 activity, students learn sentence structure as they study the planets.

## Materials Needed

- ◆ Bulletin Board
- ◆ Colored Index Cards
- ◆ *Going Around the Sun: Some Planetary Fun* by Marianne Berkes

## Key Concepts

- ◆ 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. Write the names of the eight planets on blue index cards and tack them one under the other on a bulletin board, in the order of their distance from the Sun, beginning with "Mercury."
2. Write the action verb used in the story for each planet on a red or orange index card and place those cards one under the other in a separate column, but mix them up.
3. Read the story. For older students read the glossary as well.
4. Ask students to help match the correct verb to each planet.

## Nature Connections

- ◆ Invite students to observe the night sky. How many sentences can they construct from the objects they see? e.g. "A star *twinkles*", "the moon *shines*", or "the sky *darkens*."
- ◆ Pass out yellow index cards and ask older students to write down words to enhance the sentences on the bulletin board. The student brings up his/her card and adds on to the sentence. e.g. Venus *sparkles* "brilliantly" or Neptune *moves* "oh so slowly."

## Additional Resources

### Links to Space Observatories

#### The Cincinnati Observatory

<http://www.cincinnatiobservatory.org/>

#### Mount Washington Observatory

<http://www.mountwashington.org/>

#### Lowell Observatory

<http://www.lowell.edu/>

#### The Exploratorium

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/observatory/>

#### NASA Earth Observatory

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/>

