



Word 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

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

Key Concepts

- ◆ Objects can be described by their properties and classified accordingly.
- ◆ A system is an organized group of related objects or components.
- ◆ Students analyze in terms of order and systems.

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 correct order, beginning with "Mercury."
2. Write the action verb (adding an "s") 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 action verb to each noun (planets) explaining that sentences need to have both a noun and a verb.
5. Alternately, take the cards off the bulletin board and pass out one card to each student. Invite students to find the classmate(s) that have a matching part to each sentence.

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*."
- ◆ Ask older students to write down words (on yellow cards) that enhance the sentences on the bulletin board. (**e.g.** "brilliantly" and "slowly"). The student brings up his/her card and adds it on to the sentence. **e.g.** Venus *sparkles* "brilliantly" or Neptune *moves* "slowly."

Additional Resources

Links to Space Observatories

The Cincinnati Observatory

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

Mount Washington Observatory

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

The Exploratorium

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

NASA Earth Observatory

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

Lowell Observatory

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

