

POP! TEACHER RESOURCE

Lesson Plan

Orbit Order

Lesson Plan for *Jupiter*
Grade 1

Objective

To have students play a game to practice recalling the order of the planets in our solar system.

Things Needed

- *Jupiter* book
- An open area to play a spaced-out game
- Masking tape
- Tape measure
- Computer or projector

Before the Activity

Read the *Jupiter* book aloud to the class. In the open area, place nine lines of masking tape on the floor, spacing them at least six feet apart.

Activity

Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun. Eight planets orbit the Sun. Display the diagram on pages 6 and 7 of the *Jupiter* book, which shows the planets in order. Talk through this diagram, explaining which planet is closest to the Sun, which planet is second, which planet is third, and so on. Then have students play a game to practice remembering the order of the planets.

To start the game, go stand on the first line of tape. Explain that you are the Sun. You will call out the name of a planet, and students will hold up the number of fingers that matches that planet's place in the order. For example, if you say, "Jupiter," students would hold up five fingers. Remind students to use their hands to show each number instead of shouting the answer. Watch for the first student to show the correct answer for each planet. You'll call this student to come stand on the tape line that matches the planet's order from the Sun. Remind students that planets do not touch one another,



so they must not grab or touch any other students. Continue calling the names of planets until a student is standing on the line for each planet in the solar system. Then play the game again, this time choosing a student to be the Sun and call the names of the planets.

Evaluation

Continue repeating the game until several students have a chance to be the Sun. Provide prompting and support as needed to help the various “Suns” recall the names of the planets and evaluate their classmates’ answers.

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.2, 1.7), and the National Science Education Standards’ Content Standard D, grades K–4.

