

# POP! TEACHER RESOURCE

## Lesson Plan

### Studying Saturn

Lesson Plan for *Saturn*

Grade 1

#### Objective

To help students compare and contrast two different texts about Saturn's rings.

#### Things Needed

- *Saturn* book
- Access to the "Saturn" web page on the Pop! website:  
<https://popbooksonline.com/planets/saturn/>
- Whiteboard

#### Before the Activity

Read the *Saturn* book aloud as a class. Open the "Saturn" web page in your internet browser. Pull up the "Watch a Video" tab. In a separate window, pull up the "Explore Links" tab and click on the link for the Wonderopolis article, "What Are Saturn's Rings Made Of?" This article can also be found here:

<https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/what-are-saturns-rings-made-of>

#### Activity

Saturn is one of eight planets in our solar system. The planet Saturn is known for its beautiful rings. Play the video for students. Then read the caption below the video aloud. Ask students to list what they learn about Saturn's rings from this text. Write their answers on the whiteboard, using the following sample answers as a guide:

- The rings are made of chunks of rocks and ice.
- Some chunks are as small as peas, while others are as big as houses.
- The chunks sparkle when sunlight hits them.
- Some of the chunks are covered in dust.



Next, read the Wonderopolis article aloud to the class. Ask students to name any facts in this article that are similar to the facts from the video caption. Use the following sample answers as a guide:

- The article says the rings are made of chunks of rocks, ice, and dust.
- The article says the chunks can be as small as a grain of sand or as big as a house.

Then, invite a few volunteers to raise a hand and share a fact from the article that gave new information about Saturn's rings, using the following sample answers as a guide:

- The article says Saturn's rings are divided into seven main groups.
- It says these groups are separated by spaces called divisions.
- The article says each ring group has thousands of smaller rings (called ringlets) within it.
- The article says the main ring groups are named after letters of the alphabet.
- These ring groups can be more than 170,000 miles wide, but they are very thin.
- The first astronomer to see the rings was Galileo, who saw them in 1610.
- The article says the rings orbit Saturn at fast speeds.
- The article says that the rings aren't perfect circles but have dips and bends.
- Astronomers think the particles that make up the rings likely came from crashes between comets, asteroids, or moons.
- The Cassini spacecraft helps scientists learn about Saturn's rings.
- Based on information from this spacecraft, scientists think the rings may be as old as the solar system.

### **Evaluation**

Could students recall information about Saturn's rings? Could they identify similarities and differences between the two sources?

### **Standards**

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.1, 1.9), and the National Science Education Standards' Content Standard D, grades K–4.

