

The Planets

Exhibit: The nine planets

Location: Third floor

Ties to other exhibits:

Pluto and Beyond, Hubble, Foucault Pendulum

Pre-visit:

Students will prepare for the planetarium visit by looking at and discussing pictures of the planets in our solar system. Students will use books and the internet to get an idea of how much information on the planets is currently available. They should be encouraged to think critically about how much of the information is “current.”

Activities

Objective: Students will examine at least one planet in detail. After coming up with answers to the directed questions (below), they will select from several individual or group activities and present their project to the class upon completion.

Directions: Have students do one or more of the following after the visit to the planetarium. *They will need to collect data while at the planetarium to support their project.*

Have students choose a planet of interest.

- 1) Have students make a travel brochure for their chosen planet and present it to the class.
- 2) Have students make a poster or power point presentation for their chosen planet and present it to the class.
- 3) Have Students make a model or similar project that demonstrates some of their answers to “Directed questioning” and present it to the class.
- 4) After students have done one of the above projects, put them in groups and use an opinion spectrum to discuss the possibility of life elsewhere in the universe.

Directed questioning: How is the planet you’ve chosen to investigate similar or different from the others? How would you have to adapt to the planet? What would you have to eat or be able to breathe? What might your body structure look like? How would you move around? What would be your energy source? How many years old would you be on each planet? Can you find out anything interesting about any of the moons in our solar system?

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Data Sheet

Directions: Use *The Planets* exhibit at the Clark Planetarium to answer the following questions and complete your chosen project.

How is the planet you've chosen to investigate similar or different from the others?

How would you have to adapt to live on the planet?

What would you have to eat or be able to breathe?

What might your body structure look like?

How would you move around?

What would be your energy source?

How many years old would you be on each planet?

What could hurt you at this planet?

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Activity Sheet

Directions: Select one of the following projects.

- 1) Make a travel brochure for your assigned planet and present it to the class.
- 2) Make a poster or power point presentation for your assigned planet and present it to the class.
- 3) Make a model that incorporates the answers to *The Planets* data sheet and present it to the class.
- 4) Write a story that describes the planets and includes your answers to *The Planets* data sheet.

* For further current information on each of the planets, download the up-to-date Planet Fact Sheet at the Clark Planetarium website. (Look under *Education* and then under *General*) <http://www.clarkplanetarium.org/FilesPDF2004/SSHndout2004.pdf>