Sun's Family Teacher Guide

Field Trip Description

Orbiting, bending, and tilting, children will learn about the movements of Sun, Earth, and Moon as they create a human model of the inner Solar System and learn how technology has allowed us to study space in this classroom-based program. Additionally, fourth graders will model the regular and predictable motion of objects in the outer Solar System, learn about the gas giant planets, and more. **SC State Standards:** 1-ESS1-1, 1-ESS1-2, 4-PS3-3

Objectives

- Students will understand each planet's place in our solar system while modeling its position in the solar system.
- Students will understand the movement of our moon around the earth and sun as they participate in building a human model of our solar system.
- Students will understand which planets are made up of rock, and which planets are made up of gas.

Vocabulary

Model: a copy of an object, sometimes made in the object's typical size, used especially for instruction or display.

Planet: a large body in outer space that circles around the sun or another star.

Moon: the Earth's natural satellite.

Satellite: a heavenly body that moves around a planet or another larger body.

Asteroid: a small, rocky, planet-like body that circles the sun and is mostly found between the orbits of Jupiter and Mars.

Pre-Visit

(suggestions to prepare students for the field trip)

- Familiarize students with the names of the planets in our solar system: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.
- Review the vocabulary list with the students.
- Watch "Welcome to the Museum!"

Post-Visit

(suggestions to reinforce concepts learned on the field trip)

- Quiz students on the vocabulary learned at the Museum.
- Ask students to remember the order of the planets beginning with the planet closest to the sun. Ask which are rocky midgets, and which are gas giants as the students name each planet.
- Ask students if they remember how many stars are in our solar system (One – the Sun).