

Science Summer 1 Week 5

Space Project 3: Our Solar System

This week, you are going to be finding out about the planets in our solar system. You will be finding out about the different planets and then completing a project about a planet of your choice.

You should aim to spend around 3 hours in total on this week's project. It is a good idea to spend a little bit of time each day rather than doing it all at once.

The Planets in our Solar System

There are eight planets in our solar system:

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune

This is the order they are from the Sun: Mercury is closest and Neptune is the furthest away.

A mnemonic to help you remember the order of the planets is :

My Very Easy Method Just Speeds Up Names

Can you think of your own mnemonic to help you to remember the order of the planets starting from closest to the Sun?

Type your mnemonic here.

Now watch the videos below to find out about the two types of planet.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zdrrd2p/articles/zgrvbk7>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zdrrd2p/articles/ztsdj6f>

Write down three things you have learnt from the videos below.

1.

2.

3.

Now explore the website <https://www.virgingalactic.com/> . Start by looking at the **Purpose, Mission** and **Vision** sections then look at the **Learn** section.

If you cannot view the website read the following:

Virgin Galactic is the world's first commercial spaceline (this means people can pay for trips to space) and vertically integrated aerospace company. With our sister company, The Spaceship Company we are developing and operating a new generation of space vehicles to open space for everyone.

Our mission, to be the Spaceline for Earth, means we focus on using space for good while delivering an unparalleled customer experience.

We recognize that improving access to space is a fundamentally challenging ambition. We will achieve it only in a spirit of collaboration and with a recognition that we must continually learn and can always improve.

Your challenge:

You are going to choose which of the seven planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn or Neptune) Virgin Galactic should plan to visit. You are then going to prepare a speech or write a letter to persuade the company that your planet should be chosen and why.

For whichever format you chose, you will need to have a clear introduction, include key facts about your planet and give at least three clear reasons explaining why your planet should be chosen. You might want to consider comparing your planet to others to prove it is the best choice. For example: Is it closer to Earth so there is less distance to travel than the other planets?

You should use the Box it up planning format to help you to plan your letter or persuasive speech carefully. If you choose to do a speech, you might want to make a poster to accompany it.

Before you choose your planet, you might want to find out a bit more about all 7 of the planets so you can choose wisely. There is a **list of useful websites** you can use to find information.

When you are collecting information about your planet, you might want to try to find out the following things:

1. What does the planet look like? Would it be a nice view for passengers?
2. How far from the Sun is it? Think about safety and comfort.
3. How many Moons does it have?
4. How long are the days on the planet?
5. What is the average temperature on the surface?
6. What are the minimum and maximum surface temperatures?
7. How far from Earth is the planet? How far would passengers have to travel to get there?
8. Are there any other interesting facts about the planet you can find that would provide a good reason to visit.

Space for your research notes.

