

Extra 6

Our solar system

Learning the names of the planets in our solar system.

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Aims

Children become interested in space and astronomy as they enter the upper grades. It would be a good idea to do an activity which introduces the children to the English names of the planets in our solar system. Most children should know the names of the planets in Japanese, so it will be a good chance for them to compare the names in Japanese and English. It is also possible to bring up the topic of how the names of the planets are connected to the names of the days.

Vocabulary

Sun Mercury Venus Earth Moon Mars Jupiter Saturn Uranus
Neptune Pluto

Possible Activities

1. Just as children remember the Japanese names of the planets in the order from the sun, you could have them say the English names of the planets in the same order from the Sun.
Which planet is farther from the sun, the earth or Venus?
Let's say the planets in order of the distance from the sun.
2. Compare the size of the planets. The order of the planets in our solar system from biggest to smallest is as follows : Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, earth, Venus, Mars, Mercury, Pluto. The moon is smaller than Mercury and bigger than Pluto.
Which is bigger, the earth or Mercury?
What is the biggest planet?