

1. Planets

This week's lesson is about the planets in our solar system. The official count is currently at eight planets, after Pluto was demoted to a 'dwarf planet' in 2006.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Give each student in the class a copy of both worksheets. Allow five minutes for students to read the text and label the picture in Exercise 1.
2. Check answers in open class.
3. Give students a further ten minutes to complete Exercise 2.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. As an optional extra activity, divide the class into two teams, A and B. Each team works together to prepare questions based on the text (*Name two of Jupiter's moons*, etc). After a preparation time of around ten minutes, teams face each other and ask and answer questions. Each correct answer scores the team a point. The team with the most points at the end of the game is the winner.

Answers:**Exercise 1**

(Starting nearest the Sun): 1. Mercury 2. Venus 3. Earth
4. Mars 5. Jupiter 6. Saturn 7. Uranus 8. Neptune

Exercise 2

1. Jupiter 2. Mars 3. Saturn 4. Neptune
5. Earth 6. Mercury 7. Venus 8. Uranus

2. Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/index.cfm>

The US government's space programme, NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), hosts this web page on planets and the solar system. Accessible to Intermediate level.

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/space/planets-solar-system/index.html>

The British National History Museum's web page on the solar system. Challenging for Intermediate level.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/space/solarsystem/space_missions

A pictorial history of mankind's missions into space to explore the Moon and planets. Accessible to Intermediate level.