

Outer Space Curriculum Guide

Content Knowledge

1. We live on a planet called Earth.
2. When you look up at the sky at night you can see thousands of stars.
3. The sun is the closest star to Earth.
4. Constellations are patterns in stars (big dipper, little dipper).
5. All the planets in our solar system move around the sun in big circles called orbits.
6. The sun heats and lights the Earth. Without it, nothing would be able to live.
7. The moon moves around Earth.
8. The moon has enormous craters that were formed millions of years ago by meteorites (space rocks).
9. The moon doesn't always look the same. Sometimes it is a big circle (full moon), sometimes it looks like a curvy banana (crescent moon), and sometimes it is totally invisible.
10. There is no air to breathe or water to drink on the moon.
11. The Earth is one of nine planets moving around the sun in big orbits.
12. The nine planets are: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto.
13. Earth is the only planet that we know that has life.
14. Space shuttles take people up into space.
15. People that travel into space are called astronauts. They have to wear a special space suit.
16. Everything in outer space is very, very far away.
17. It is dark and cold in outer space.
18. Some people believe there is another life form on the other planets. They are called aliens. No one knows for sure what aliens look like.
19. Gravity pulls us toward the center of the Earth and keeps us from falling off.
20. Astronauts often get disoriented or mixed up and dizzy in outer space.
21. Space shuttles "blast off" from Earth to go into space.
22. Binoculars and telescopes are tools to help us see things (planets) that are far away.

Primary Objectives and Skills

1. **Science-** Understanding that outer space is different from life on earth.
2. **Identification-** Ability to name and label the planets, sun, moon, astronauts and rockets.