



Expedition: Solar System 2D or 3D

KS1 / KS2; duration: 30 minutes; presenter-led

Board the UK's only 3D Planetarium for an expedition across the Solar System. Discover why moons aren't planets and choose where we visit along the way.

Key Words: Space. Astronomy. Exploration. Stars. Planets. Sun. Solar System. Moons. Dwarf planets.

Learning objectives. Students will:

Learn about the Earth and moon system, and other moons within our solar system.

Learn about the planets within our own Solar System.

Learn the three characteristics that officially define a planet and why moons and dwarf planets do not meet this definition.

Develop a deeper understanding of the size and scale of the Solar System and beyond.

Learn more about the objects found within the Solar System.

Enjoy the sensation of flying through space.

Be inspired by the immersive setting of the Planetarium to continue their learning through space.

Content:

Take a whistle-stop tour of the planets of the Solar System.

Discover how we get night and day as the Earth orbits the Sun.

Learn how long the Moon takes to orbit the Earth.

Investigate why moons can be potato-shaped, but planets are always round.

Visit objects in space that orbit the Sun but aren't planets.

Decide what else we look at on the way. A planet that looks like our Moon, or a moon that orbits something that isn't a planet. A really big moon, or a moon that's hiding.

Curriculum Links:

Lower KS2: Working Scientifically

Making systematic and careful observations.

Using straightforward scientific evidence to answer questions or to support their findings.

Lower KS2: Light

Recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that it's not safe to look directly at the sun.

Upper KS2: Earth & Space

Describe the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system.

Describe the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth.

Describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as approximately spherical bodies.

Use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky.

Learn that the Sun is a star at the centre of our solar system and that it has eight planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

Understand that a moon is a celestial body that orbits a planet.

Potential Hazards and Accessibility

3D shows are strictly for ages 6 and over.

Expedition: Solar System 2D is available for Year

One groups.

Related Activities

Exhibits: Ground floor exhibits under the theme '*Is there another me in the Universe*'.

Workshops: Earth, Sun, & Moon, KS1 Destination Space, KS2 Destination Space.