

SUPER QUESTERS

Solar System STEM Art

Use colours and textured materials to recreate a creative solar system.

STORE CUPBOARD

- Thick black paper or card
- White paper
- Poster paint - various bright colours
- Various-sized circular templates - e.g. bowls, jam jar lids, coins, and cups
- Toothbrush
- Paintbrushes, a sponge and tinfoil
- Scissors and glue



1 Together, look at the solar system's image (provided above) and discuss the planets' names and what you notice about their size and order from the sun.

2 Hunt around your home to find a set of circular templates that could represent the planets, including the sun, keeping their differing sizes in mind. Add a name label to each and put them to one side.

3 Take the black card, the toothbrush and white paint. Dip the bristles into the paint and rub them over the card. The paint should spatter and look like stars in the solar system. Put this to one side and leave it to dry.

4 Set up your paints and the white paper. Use the paintbrushes, sponge and tinfoil to explore colours and textures. You could use the sponge to layer the fiery palette of Venus or the paintbrush to create calm swirls of Neptune. Another idea is to use two colours and recreate Earth or mix and match the browns of Saturn. You can experiment using crumpled up tinfoil, dip it in the paint and stamp it on top of a painting to create a marbled texture.



5 Once the paint has dried, place the circular templates over your planet designs, draw around them and cut each one out.

6 Arrange your planets in order on your black card, starting with the sun. Remember, if you need, use the image to help you. Then use the glue to stick them in place.

HINTS & TIPS

- You can remember the order of the planet's from the sun using a simple rhyme, such as:

My Very Excited Monkey Just Slurped Up Noodles.

FUN FACTS!

- The solar system is around 4.6 billion years old.
- The Sun is actually a gigantic star. It takes 8 minutes for light to reach Earth from the Sun.
- Each planet in the solar system is different. However, the four closest to the Sun are mostly made of rock, and the 4 furthest away are mostly ice or gas.

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