Music

- Sing "Mister Sun." Tell children that the sun is a star, then sing again, saying "Star" instead of "Sun."
- Pick a favorite song to wake up the astronauts.
- Sing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Use other "space words" in place of "star."
- Outer space has no sound because there is no air. Be completely silent for one minute. Do you hear anything?

Active Play

- Pretend to be planets rotating around the sun. Remind students that planets never crash into one another.
- Walk, dance, and jump on the moon with giant, light footsteps.
- Shimmer or fall like a shooting star.
- Play "Robots and Programmers"! Working in pairs, one child gives commands while the other responds. Switch roles.

Cooking

- Bring in dehydrated snacks and tiny bite-sized cookies that real astronauts eat in outer space.
- Plan and prepare a lunch that a being on another planet would eat. Dress up as aliens and enjoy a "spacey" lunch.
- Cut cheese into different-size chunks. Using toothpicks, attach cheese bits together to make mini robots. Decorate.
- Drink Space Shakes. (See other side.)

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Science

- Discuss gravity. "Float" food or pencils from fishing line attached to the ceiling to simulate weightlessness.
- Study the different parts of a space suit. How do they work?
- Compare planet temperatures. Which is the hottest? The coldest? Can humans survive on all the planets?
- Take a field trip to an observatory or planetarium.

Space

Math

• Countdown to blastoff! 10, 9, 8, 7...

• Cut out stars of different sizes and colors.

• Cut out felt planets and the sun. Label

and compare planets to find the largest,

the smallest, and the closest to the sun.

• The temperature of a star determines its

Introduce a thermometer to the class.

color. Blue stars are hottest, yellow (our sun) are cooler, and red are coolest.

Count, sort, and use them for sequencing.

Art

- Create papier-mâché planets! Cover balloons with papier-mâché. Allow them to dry, and paint with realistic colors.
- Hang stars from the sky! Shape air-drying clay with star-shaped cookie cutters. Make a hole, dry, paint, and hang.
- Make and paint a giant rocket ship from a refrigerator box.
- Create star constellations on black construction paper using foil stars.

Language

- Have children draw pictures of what they think the weather is like on the sun and moon. Discuss and compare.
- Name and describe an imaginary planet or constellation. Be creative!
- Write a letter to a former astronaut. Did he or she walk on the moon?
- Discuss sounds that might be heard on the moon. Explain that because there is no air in space, there is no sound.

Dramatic Play

- Dress like astronauts! Wrap tinfoil around your clothes and use rubber bands to attach sponges to your shoes.
- Blast off to Mars in your space shuttle. Meet up with aliens.
- Travel from planet to planet as a satellite. Record all you see in a journal.
- Pretend to be one of the first astronauts to walk on the moon on July 20, 1969. What do you see? How do you feel?

LA454 Ages 3+

Space

Children are filled with wonder when they look up at the sky and see the bright stars and moon. Your Space Theme Box is full of materials that will assist you in teaching your students about the mysteries of the universe. We've also included a web full of activities to help you integrate the space theme across the curriculum. Before you begin, ask the children what they already know about space and what questions they have.

Using the Materials

Puzzle and Picture Cards

- As children put together the puzzle, tell them the name of each planet and point out its position in the solar system.
- Take your children on a journey through space! After showing the pictures, see if they can name some of the objects they saw on their journey.

Book and Constellation Chart

- Have children place the cards on top of Ursa Major to form the Great Bear and Big Dipper. Have them count out how many stars make up each constellation.
- After reading the book, have children create their own night sky! Draw a picture with markers, then cover the entire picture with black crayon. Using a toothpick, scratch off some of the crayon and let the bright stars shine through.

Space Shuttle Beanbag and Spacecraft Stencils

- Pass the shuttle around the class. As each child holds the shuttle, have them name one thing they would take with them to the moon.
- Create a classroom space center on a bulletin board. Using the stencils, have students decorate a spacecraft to park at the space center.

Astronaut Figure

• Point out the cable used to keep the astronaut attached to the spacecraft. Discuss what it's used for. Find other special features of space suits.

Earth Ball, Moon Ball, Flashlight

• Hold up the Earth ball and shine the light on it to simulate the sun. Move the ball around the flashlight to show how we get day and night.

See the Stars Shine

Stars are impossible to see during the day because of the bright sunlight. But that doesn't mean children can't enjoy some creative daytime viewing of the stars. Just make a star viewer for the classroom and watch the stars shine!

Bring in a clean, empty coffee can. Remove the bottom with a can opener and throw it away. Using black construction paper, cut out several circles that are slightly larger than the top of the can. Using a small hole puncher or toothpick, make a real or imaginary constellation in each of the black circles. Turn off all the lights in the classroom and have the children stretch out on their backs. Set the can on a table, put a strong flashlight inside, and place one of the black constellation circles over the open top of the can. Then, one by one, change the black constellation circles. As the light shines through the holes in the black paper, your students will witness an instant star show!

Children can make their own star viewers out of empty toilet paper tubes. Cut a small circle out of black construction paper and tape it to one end of a tube. Help the children poke holes into the paper-covered ends with a toothpick. To view, hold the tube up to a light and look through the uncovered end.

Space Library

Curious George Gets a Medal by H. A. Rey

Galaxies

- by Seymour Simon
- Goodnight Moon
- by Margaret Wise Brown
- The Magic School Bus Lost in the Solar System
- by Joanna Cole
- The Moon
- by Seymour Simon
- The Planets in Our Solar System by Franklyn M. Branley
- The Solar System
- by Carmen Bredeson Space, Stars, Planets, and Spacecraft by Sue Becklake

Sun Up, Sun Down by Gail Gibbons Wake Up, Sun!

by David L. Harrison What's Out There? A Book About Space

by Lynn Wilson

Space Shakes

- 1 six-oz. can frozen orange juice
- 1 banana
- 2 cups milk
- 6 ice cubes
- 2 scoops vanilla ice cream
- 1. Combine orange juice, bananas, milk, and ice cubes in blender.
- 2. Blend until ice cubes are smooth. Add 2 scoops of vanilla ice cream.
- 3. Blend until creamy. Pour into styrofoam cups. Serve cold.

Makes 4 servings

A Silly Surface

Planets have different surfaces. Jupiter is made mostly of gases, which means it doesn't have any ground to walk or stand on, while Mars is known for its red, dusty surface.

To make the surface of an unknown planet, combine two parts cornstarch with one part water in a large bowl. Add food coloring, if desired.

Let each child take turns squeezing and playing with the mixture. Record the children's observations of the funny texture.

For more fun, use your play astronauts and lunar rovers. After they're done "exploring" the mysterious mixture, be sure to rinse them off with water.