



# 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.

## 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 styro-foam 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.

## 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.