

I love all the colors in the world, but let's discover what colors are in the solar system!



Scribbles
Your
Colorations®
Friend

Colorful Solar System

Science

AGES 5-8

STEP 1

Fingerpaint a sheet of large art paper, covering the entire page.

Have children cover an entire sheet of large art paper with a dark color of blue or black paint. The painted paper will need to dry completely before proceeding to the next step.



STEP 2

Cut out a circular hole for the sun and each planet in our solar system.



Discuss the names, order, sizes and colors of the sun and the planets in our solar system. The children may wish to lightly draw or trace the sun and planets on their paper prior to cutting a hole for each. With size and order in mind, have the children cut out a hole for each planet and the sun.



This activity takes approximately 40 minutes.

Materials

Large art paper
(one piece per child)

Colored cellophane

Colorations® Washable
Finger Paint or
BioColor® Paint

Colorations® Pointed
Tip Scissors

Cellophane tape

Flashlight



STEP 3

Tape colored cellophane to the back of each hole.

Choose different colors of cellophane to represent the sun and each of the planets (e.g., yellow for the sun, red for mercury, etc.). Cut the pieces of cellophane to size as needed. The colored cellophane pieces should be taped to the back of the paper in order to cover the appropriate hole for each planet.



STEP 4



Shine a flashlight on the back of the paper and watch the planets appear.

In a darkened room, shine a flashlight on the back of the paper. The light will cause the colored cellophane to glow and appear as illuminated planets. Discuss how holding the flashlight closer to or farther from a planet affects how brightly the planet glows. Have the children discuss how this relates to the light produced by the sun in our solar system.

Science Outcomes:

1. Understanding the solar system
2. Using light for illumination
3. Understanding the role of the sun in the solar system

Art is a colorful way to learn science!

Classroom Tips:

Extensions: This activity could be done on a very large piece of butcher paper as a classroom project to produce one large solar system for study. A similar activity can be done for constellations, leaving cut or punched holes open for white light.

Vocabulary: solar system, sun, planets, light, revolve

