

We Are Learning To

describe what the Solar System includes and explain how we can see some of its key features.

What I am Looking For is for you to:

- describe the key features of the Solar System and make observations about the movement of the Sun, Earth and Moon, recognising which are luminous and non-luminous (all);
- interpret observations to explain the movements of the Sun, stars and Moon and how we see the planets and the Moon (most); and
- use models and provide evidence to explain observations of the Solar System (some).

Lesson plan**Starter**

Use the 'True/False - Introduction to the Solar System' activity. The results of the activity can be analysed through a class discussion. The real answers should not be revealed at this point, as the main activity looks at a lot of these areas.

The pupils could be encouraged to demonstrate their theories using the equipment available (eg a light source, football and tennis ball could be used to model the relationship between the Sun, Earth and Moon), or asked what evidence they have for their theories.

Main

Give the pupils five minutes to draw the most important parts of the Solar System on a blank piece of paper. Pupils then feedback what they included - this can be very useful for clearing up common misconceptions. For example, there is only one star in the Solar System, yet many pupils include many stars in their drawings. Discuss what other objects, apart from the Sun, Earth and Moon, make up our Solar System. Using cut out images printed from the CD-ROM ask the pupils to build up a Solar System either putting the images on a large sheet of paper or using pupils to hold them.

Use the luminous objects to discuss stars, including the Sun, and why we can see them. The non-luminous objects can be used to illustrate why we can see other objects in our Solar System. The film canister experiment is a useful illustration (see teacher notes).

Challenge pupils' misconceptions from the starter activity using images and video clips from the CD-ROM (a list of images, with links to the images, can be found in the teacher notes). These images look best shown on a large screen. Details of how the images might be used are provided in the teacher notes.

Plenary

Following the discussion on the Solar System, give pupils an opportunity to reflect on their answers from the True/False starter activity and make any adjustments.