

GRADES PRE K-1

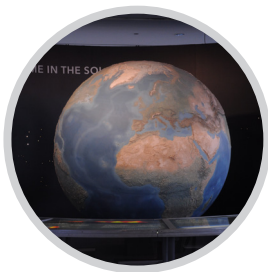
Our Solar System

Explore the many worlds—planets, moons, dwarf planets, comets, and asteroids—that orbit the Sun. Our Solar System is much more than a star and eight planets; it is home to a set of diverse and amazing objects that we are only beginning to understand.

Guide Overview

This guide includes suggestions for how to engage your students and facilitate an age-appropriate learning experience in the **Our Solar System** exhibit.

Highlights & Related Questions



- FIND** Instruct the students to find the large rotating Earth model at the entrance of the exhibit.
- DO** Have the students observe the motion of the Earth. Also challenge them to identify where the United States, Illinois, or Chicago is located.
- ASK** Does the Earth really rotate? **Yes.** Why is it sometimes day and sometimes night? **Because during the day, the side of the Earth we are on is facing the Sun, at night it is facing away from the Sun.**



- FIND** Direct students to find the large Sun model.
- DO** Have students compare the sizes of the Sun model and the Earth model.
- ASK** Can we see the Sun in the sky? **Yes, during the daytime.** Where does the Sun go during the night? **The Earth rotates and the side we are on is facing away from the Sun during the night.** What does the Sun provide for us? **Light, heat, and energy for plants.**



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- FIND** Instruct students to find the meteorite on the large table near the café.
- DO** Encourage the students to touch the meteorite sample. It's from space! Have them compare the meteorite to other rocks they've seen.
- ASK** Where do you think this came from? **Space**. How is it similar or different to rocks found on Earth?
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- FIND** Direct the students to the Make an Impact station near the meteorite.
- DO** After the students wait for the countdown to reach zero, have them press the red button. Beware! The sound is loud!
- ASK** What do you think will happen when you push the button? What actually happened when you pushed it? **Something shot at the flour**. What shape do you see in the flour? **A circle**. This circle is called a crater, or hole that results from an impact, or crash.
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- FIND** Have the students find the remote control rover screen near the Mars Rover model.
- DO** Instruct the students to drive the rover, using the video screen for guidance.
- ASK** What do you see? Where do you think the rover that you are controlling could be? **Planet Explorers exhibit, pretending to investigate another planet**.
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