

**GRADES PRE K-1**

Planet Explorers

Planet Explorers is a fun, hands-on exhibit designed for children in Pre-K through 3rd grade. In the exhibit, students can use their imaginations to become space explorers and embark on an awe-inspiring journey to a faraway world, Planet X. Feel the wonder of discovering a new planet and the excitement of solving its mysteries. Students are invited to play and learn in Planet Explorers! Be sure to notice educational question prompts posted on the walls throughout the exhibit to enhance the learning experience for your students.

Guide Overview

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

Questions you and your students will encounter throughout the exhibit include:

- What do humans and other living things need to survive?
- What is outer space? How can we go there?
- How do rockets move?
- What do we need to think about and bring with us to outer space to stay healthy?
- What are planets? Can we visit any?
- What should we look for when we get there?
- How is Planet X similar or different from Earth?

Highlights & Related Questions



- FIND** Instruct students to find the bathroom, bedroom, kitchen, sink, TV, and couches in the Planet Explorers home. Students have these things in their homes, too.
- DO** Have students compare items in the Planet Explorers home to the items found in their home.
- ASK** What items are the same? What items are different?



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- FIND** As the student walks into the backyard, instruct them to find the garden, trees, and woodpile. They can also find stars twinkling above them in the dark sky.
- DO** Encourage students to plant vegetables in the garden, identify vegetables, and investigate the backyard ecosystem.
- ASK** What plants grow here? **Answers can include carrots, tomatoes, onions, cucumber, pepper.** What do humans, animals, and plants need to survive and on Earth? **Answers can include need water, food, shelter and sunlight.**
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- FIND** Instruct students to locate the rocket launch station in Mission Control. This station gives them the opportunity to pretend to be an engineer preparing for a mission to space.
- DO** Have students follow the steps necessary to launch a rocket into space on the Rocket Launch interactive station. Pushing buttons in order to load the rocket properly is important!
- ASK** What is being put in the rocket that is important to bring to space? **Answers can include water, equipment, etc.**
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- FIND** Guide students to find the entrance to the rocket. There are many jobs required to launch a rocket into space.
- DO** Students can perform a safety check to make sure the rocket is ready to launch. Make sure the rocket is loaded with necessary supplies!
- ASK** What is important to bring on a journey into space? **Answers can include food, water, fuel, tools, air equipment and experiments.**
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- FIND** Have students locate the space suit in the rocket.
- DO** Students can touch the different layers of a space suit to learn about how they protect astronauts. They can also go on a space walk.
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ASK How do the layers of the space suit feel? How are they similar and different? How does a space suit keep astronauts safe? **Space suits regulate temperature for an astronaut and provide them with air to breathe.** What clothes protect you? **Answers can include coat, shoes, helmet, gloves, etc.**



FIND Instruct students to locate the astronaut food, beds and toilet.

DO Have students try out the astronaut bed against the wall. Encourage them to use their imagination to think of what it would be like to use the astronaut's bed, food and toilet.

ASK What do you think it would be like to be an astronaut in space? Are these things different from the ones you're used to using on Earth? Why do you think they are different for astronauts? **Outer space is different from Earth.**



FIND Have students find the robotic arm inside the rocket.

DO Instruct students to use the buttons to move the robotic arm up, down, left, and right to press all the buttons. The station will light up after a successful mission.

ASK How did you get all the circles to light up? **Pressed all the buttons** What was hard about moving the robot?

FIND Exiting the rocket, have students find the surface of Planet X and look around at the environment.

DO Encourage students to drive the XMovers to help them explore the terrain. They can also crawl through the caves and tunnels.

ASK What do you see on Planet X? Could humans live here? Why or why not? Do you see liquid water here? **No.** Why is it important for a planet to have water? **Plants, animals and humans need water in order to survive.**