

Name of activity: Flying from the Sun to the Stars

Short description: Listening to a poem (song) about planets

Link to curriculum: Grade 7; Unit.4.1

Difficulty level: Easy

Time: 25 mins

Learning outcomes: by the end of this activity: students will have practised their listening skills and discussed some facts about the solar system.

(Competency 3; listening, 8; speaking)

Option 1

Lesson plan with:

- ✓ Worksheet
- ✓ Tapescript

Option 2

Lesson plan with:

- ✓ Worksheets to project (data projector)
- ✓ Link to audio or video recording

Option 3

Lesson plan with:

- ✓ Activities for a Computer Room

Link to material

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/songs/flying-the-sun-the-stars>

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/play-with-friends/quiz-the-solar-system>

Option 1: Worksheet

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| Preparation | <p>Photocopy worksheet 1 (every student should have a copy of activity 1, but 1 copy of activity 2 per group of 4-5 students is fine).</p> <p>Print 'words for the song' for teacher.</p> |
| Stage / Time | Procedure |
| Pre listening task 5 mins | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elicit ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the word planet- e.g. Ask 'What is a name for something in the sky that goes round a star?. Earth and Mars are examples. ○ the phrase solar system. e.g. Ask 'What is a name for the group of planets that go round the sun?' Write solar system on the board 2. Put students into groups of 4-5 and give them one minute to write down the names of as many planets as they can. All the students in the group must write the list. 3. Elicit what they wrote and which group had the most planets. 4. You could ask students what they know about these planets (let them discuss in groups before you have a whole class discussion) but do not spend too long on this. |
| First listening task 5 mins | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell students they are going to listen to a poem called 'Flying From the Sun to the Stars'. When they hear the name of a planet that is on their list they must tick it. 2. Read the poem (it is actually a song so if you can make up a tune and sing it, so much the better. Or, if you can download it from the internet to play in class, that would be good. But reading it is fine). 3. Students check their answers in their group. 4. Find out the winning group-the one with the most correct answers. |
| Second listening task 5 mins | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give each student a copy of Activity 1 from the worksheet. Tell students they will listen to the poem again and number the pictures in the order they hear them. Before they listen again ask them if they can remember the order. 2. Read the poem 3. Students discuss answers in pairs then give the answers. <p>Answers</p> <p>5, 10, 1 8, 4, 3, 9, 6, 2, 7</p> |

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| <p>After listening task.</p> <p>Reading and speaking</p> <p>10 mins</p> | <p>1. True or False Give one copy of Activity 2 to each group. Let students discuss and answer the questions.</p> <p>2. Groups swap their answers and score each others. Elicit answers as a whole class. Find out which group got the most right.</p> <p>Answers</p> <p>a) T b) T c)F d)T e)F f)F g)F</p> |
| <p>Variations</p> | <p>Students could draw their favourite planet and then tell the others in the class/group about their picture.</p> |

Tapescript

FLYING FROM THE SUN TO THE STARS

We're flying from the sun to the stars
Through this solar system of ours.

Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars
Flying from the sun to the stars.

Mercury's hot and Venus is bright
Earth is where we live and Mars is red at night
Flying from the sun to the stars.

Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune
Last of all is little biddy Pluto.

Flying from the sun to the stars
Through this solar system of ours
Flying from the sun to the stars.

Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars
Flying from the sun to the stars.

Mercury's hot and Venus is bright
Earth is where we live and Mars is red at night.

Flying from the sun to the stars
Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune
Last of all is little biddy Pluto.

Flying from the sun to the stars
Flying from the sun to the stars

Worksheet 1













Flying from the sun to the stars

1. What's the order?

Listen to the song and put the pictures in order.



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|--|--|--|--|---|
|  Mars |  Pluto |  the sun |  Uranus |  Earth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox" value="1"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  Venus |  Neptune |  Jupiter |  Mercury |  Saturn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. True or False.

Circle True or False for these sentences.



- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Mercury is the nearest planet to the sun. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| b. Venus is the hottest planet. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| c. Mars is often called the 'Black Planet'. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| d. Jupiter is the largest planet. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| e. Saturn's rings are made of gas. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| f. Uranus has got 10 moons. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| g. Neptune's strongest winds are 1,200 km an hour. | <input type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |

Option 2: Data Projector

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| Preparation | Follow the lesson plan for option 1 and project the worksheet on to the wall/board. If you have access to one computer you could play the song rather than saying it yourself http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/songs/flying-the-sun-the-stars |
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Option 3: Computer Lab

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| Preparation | Photocopy 'activity for the song' Activity 1; 1 copy per student. Check link is working and that you know the answers (open 'print answers') |
| Stage / Time | Procedure |
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| Pre listening task 5 mins | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elicit ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the word planet- Ask 'What is a name for something in the sky that goes round a star?. Earth and Mars are examples. ○ the phrase solar system. e.g. Ask 'What is a name for the group of planets that go round the sun?' Write solar system on the board 2. Put students into groups of 4-5 and give them one minute to write down the names of as many planets as they can. All the students in the group must write the list. 3. Elicit what they wrote and which group had the most planets. 4. You could ask students what they know about these planets (let them discuss in groups before you have a whole class discussion) but do not spend too long on this. |
| Listening task 10 mins | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell students they are going to listen to a song called 'Flying From the Sun to the Stars'. Give each student a copy of Activity 1 from the worksheet. 2. Students sit in front of computers (individually or in pairs) open the link, listen to the song and number the pictures in the order they hear each planet. http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/songs/flying-the-sun-the-stars 3. Students can play the song again until they get the right order. 4. Elicit and check answers. |
| After listening task. Reading and speaking 10 mins | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. True or False Put students into their groups of 4-5 and ask them to look at Activity 2 by opening 'print an activity for the song' 2. Let students discuss and answer the questions and then check their answers by opening 'print answers' |

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| Variations | In pairs students do the quiz on this link: http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/play-with-friends/quiz-the-solar-system |
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