

# Solar System Hats

**Wrap your head around the planets in our solar system. Then wrap them around your head!**

Look up at the night sky, and you're not just seeing stars. Some of those glimmering points of light are our neighbors in the solar system.

Earth is one of 8 planets orbiting the sun, along with Pluto, once known as the ninth planet but now reclassified as a dwarf planet.

The planets come in a variety of sizes, spins, orbits and atmospheres.

The planets are always in a set order as they circle the sun:

**Mercury:** the smallest and closest to the sun

**Venus:** is second from the sun and even hotter than Mercury because of its heat-trapping atmosphere.

**Earth:** is the third planet from the sun, the only one in the solar system where conditions are just right for life

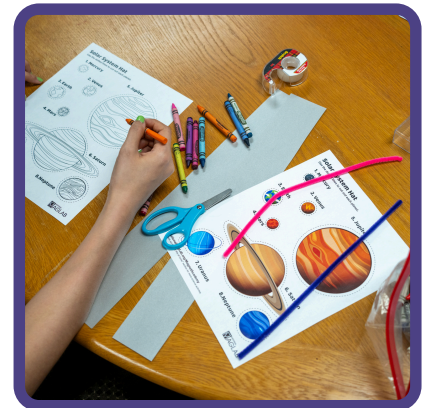
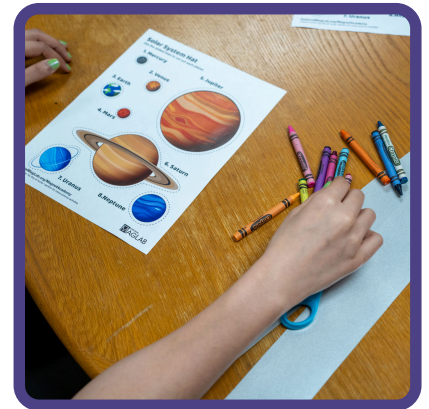
**Mars:** our next-door neighbor and the fourth planet from the sun, is about half the size of Earth.

**Jupiter:** the fifth and largest planet in the solar system, a thousand times bigger than Earth.

**Saturn:** made of hydrogen and helium. The sixth planet from the sun is known for its spectacular, complex rings.

**Uranus:** seventh from the sun, is known as an ice giant, a planet of swirling fluids with a low temperature of about  $-380^{\circ}$ .

**Neptune:** is another ice giant and the eighth and most distant planet from the sun. So far away, it is the only planet in our solar system you can't see with the naked eye.



## **Materials**

- A sheet of the 8 planets of our solar system (page 3 & 4)
- Cardboard or construction paper
- Printer & printer paper
- Pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Tape
- Crayons or colored markers



## **Instructions**

1. Print out on white paper our sheets showing the 8 planets of our solar system
2. You can print the colored or the black and white version
3. For black and white, color each planet using crayons or markers. Use colors that match the descriptions or get creative.
4. Cut the cardboard or construction paper into two thin strips, about two or three inches wide.
5. Connect the thin strips end to end to form a longer strip. Place the strip around your head, then using tape or staples connect the strip into a loop to make a head band.
6. Cut the pipe cleaners in half or in thirds until you have eight.
7. Tape your planets to each of the pipe cleaners.
8. Tape the pipe cleaners on the cardboard or construction paper, perpendicular to the strip, and in the order of the planets relative to the sun.
9. Place the band back on your head and show off your new solar system hat!

