

Discovering The Solar System - Activities (Ages 8-11)



Today we are going to investigate:

- What is the Sun
- The Sun and the planets in the sky
- How the planets move

Activities

1 Start up Night Sky and use your finger to move the sky around. Can you find the Sun? When you have found the Sun, tap twice on it. Doing this will show you the Sun in close up.

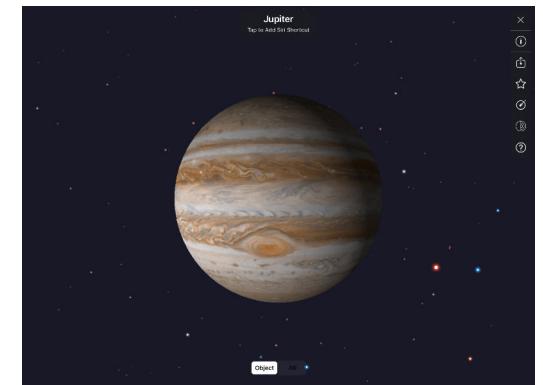
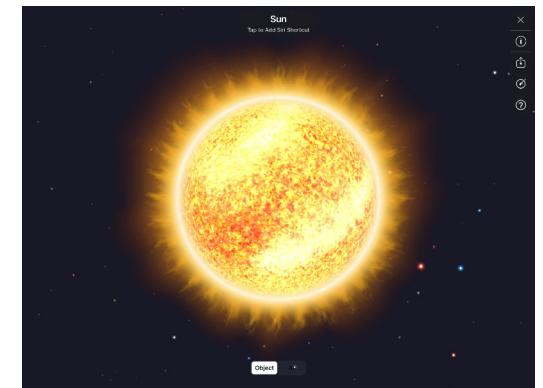
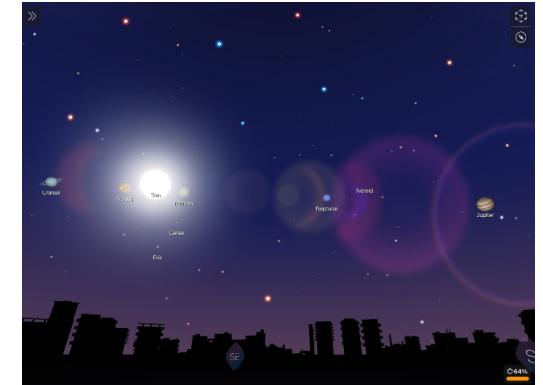
Question: Why is the Sun important to everything on Earth?

2 The Sun is a star, just like the thousands of stars we see at night. The Sun is just much closer than all the other stars. When you have finished looking at the Sun, tap the ✕ in the corner of the screen this will put the Sun back in the sky. Use your finger to move the sky around again and look for a planet. When you have found one planet, try to find some more. You might not be able to find every planet, one or two of them might be hidden behind the Sun or under the horizon!

Questions: How many planets were you able to find?
What are their names?

3 Pick a planet and tap twice on it to see a close up view. Use your finger on the screen to spin the planet around. When you have finished put the planet back in the sky by tapping the ✕ in the corner of the screen and have a look at some more planets. See how different from each other they look!

Question: Can you name another planet that we can't see in the sky?



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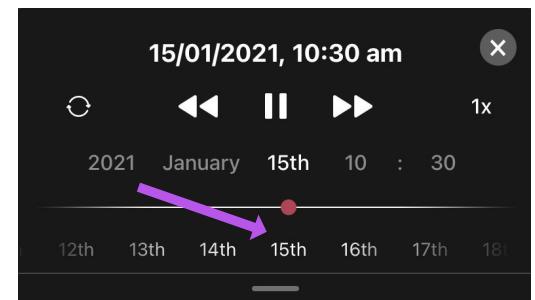
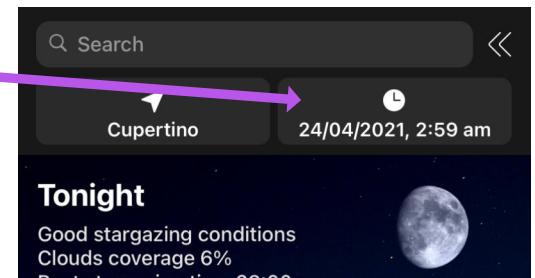
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Let's look at how the planets move. Use your finger to move the Sun until it is in the centre of the screen, see the planets around it. Then open the Main Menu and touch the Space Travel tab. See today's date, then put your finger on the day number. Now we are going to jump forward one day at a time, you do this by swiping along the day numbers. Carefully watch the planets as you are doing this (the Sun will slowly move day by day but don't pay any attention to this, watch the planets).

Question: What do the planets seem to move around?

Question: List the planets in order of their distance from the Sun? This rhyme is a clue...

My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Noodles!



What we have discovered:

- The Sun is a star
- The eight planets (including Earth) move around the Sun
- The Solar System is made up of the Sun and the planets orbiting it

Well done!
You're a Night Sky
Superstar!