

Subject: Science

Unit Title: Our Solar System- Earth, Moon and Sun

Learning Objectives and Aims:

- To support the development of personalised MAPP learning skills within the context of this unit.
- To develop an emerging concept of our blue planet and identify key features of the planet we live on. Begin to consider how we can look after our planet and take care of it.
- To identify other bodies in the sky we can see – the moon and sun.
- To identify the Sun as a star and understand why the Sun is so important to life on Earth- why do we need it and what does it do?
- To identify the Moon and know that man has reached the moon- what is the moon?

Suggested Lesson Activities & Unit Coverage:

- ❖ Our wonderful blue planet: explore the features of our planet- seas, oceans, mountains, deserts, rainforests, arctic regions. Look at a globe and note how the planet is round and the areas and regions/colours on the globe and what they mean. Look at aerial and satellite pictures of our Earth and the topography of the landscape- match and identify games like picture text lotto and label with text and symbol key features of the Earth. Watch some episodes of The Blue Planet to explore the areas/regions of our Earth and living creatures that inhabit it. Choose a feature of the Earth e.g., Ocean or Rainforest and introduce an ongoing project book to complete at both school and home about it- climate, habitat, native animals, and vegetation.
- ❖ Taking care of the planet: when looking at features of the planet what are the problems and issues e.g., Oceans, beaches and plastic waste, Countryside and towns with litter and landfill. Consider recycling and ways we can help our planet and tidy it up. Look at recycling at school and home- what can we recycle? Recycling project in school collecting all plastic and paper daily to add to the recycling bins, which bin collects what waste and what is done with the waste, where does it go and what is it turned into? Make a lifecycle plan of a glass bottle or plastic carton- what processes does it go through and turn into. Produce a poster to demonstrate how we can save our planet.
- ❖ The Sun our Star! Explore the concept of night and day, when it's day the sun is shining on our part of the planet- use a torch and globe to demonstrate and explore- light/shade = night/day, idea of the world turning/moving. Drama, act out being the world turning and moving around the sun. Look at a basic model of the solar system and make a class model. Explore the Sun- investigate the sun and its rays with mirrors, disco ball, shiny surfaces to catch the light on and reflect. How the sun is hot and warms the Earth, animals need sun to keep warm and healthy, plants need sun to grow.
- ❖ The Moon. What is the moon- explore that it is rock that circles the Earth. Man on the Moon – investigate via internet, non- fiction books how man has reached the moon and space around the Earth. Create a moonscape and models of spacecraft that have reached the moon, consider the moon and its surface what kind of alien creature could live there- no atmosphere to breathe, rock to live on, no water or food? Create your own alien lifeform- English links to vocabulary, use modelling putty to make miniatures or paint/collage and frame in a picture frame for alien family gallery! Maths links- Compare the Moon, Earth and Sun- size differences and shape similarities.