

Code the Solar System

Overview: The solar system is just that...a system. Each object has a position and a role to play in this system. Students use simple code to place the planets in the correct order and discuss any observed patterns.

What is the correct order of the planets in the solar system?
Does the order affect the solar system?

Vocabulary: planet, sun, star, solar system, inner planet, outer planet, orbit, revolve, relationship

Materials: 4 pairs of buttons – each pair is a different size, Code cards, solar system grid

Instructions:

1. Number your counting chips (circles) 1 through 8. They will be the planets.
2. Place your planet in their correct spot on the bottom of the grid.
3. Use the code sheet to place the planets in the correct order from the Sun.
4. Uh oh! Planet 8 does not have a code. Can you use the code key to make a code to get Planet 8 to its correct spot?
5. Using the mnemonic device, My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nachos, name the planets in the correct order from the Sun.

Could you have coded any of the planets with fewer steps (letters)?

For extra help watch the How to Code the Planets Video -

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/1zSQxrMjIJNo4V8TmRsnnUaeWtAGzIEzE/preview>

CHALLENGE!

Can you design a page to code the path of the Moon around the Earth or the Earth around the Sun?

SUN

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

The Planets on Your Grid

- 1 Jupiter
- 2 Mercury
- 3 Neptune
- 4 Venus
- 5 Saturn
- 6 Uranus
- 7 Earth
- 8 Mars

Using your solar system model, list the planets in the correct order from the Sun.

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

4th _____

5th _____


6th _____


7th _____


8th _____


Planet 8 Code - _____


Code:


A = 1 


B = 2 


C = 3 

D = 1 

E = 2 

F = 3 

G = 1 

H = 2 

I = 3 

J = STOP

1 CHAGJ

2 CCGBGJ

3 AGJ

4 DCCAGJ

5 CDJ

6 BEJ

7 CCFJ

8