

5 (or so) sites & 10 videos

The Planets

Read this column online, with links, at www.littleclickers.com/planets

LittleClickers is made possible by Computer Explorers. Safe, fun Internet explorations for children.

LittleClickers is brought to you by Computer Explorers, who are offering camps on programming. Visit www.computerexplorers.com to learn more. The web-based (html) version of this page is at <http://www.littleclickers.com> with live links, plus a place to report any errors. Note that CTR and COMPUTER EXPLORERS do not have commercial interests in the sites listed on this page. Librarians and teachers are permitted to copy this page for non-profit use. To suggest a future topic or to report a bad link, please contact the editor, Warren Buckleitner [WB] warren@childrenstech.com or call 908-284-0404 (9 - 3 PM, EST).

Many people don't know that on a clear winter night, you can see five planets with no telescope. But where are they? How can you tell if you're looking at a star, a jet or a planet? Let's learn more.

1. Which planets can you see without a telescope? At EarthSky.org <http://bitly.com/1RUARDO> you will learn that you can see the planets that are closest to the earth: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. To find them, you can use an app like Star Walk (see the review in CTREX).

2. The smallest planet is _____. The biggest planet is _____. You'll find the answer at Space-Facts <http://bit.ly/1ZQb981> you can learn about the sizes, order and names.

3. Which planet fluctuates more than 1,100 degrees in one day? At Space.com <http://bit.ly/1QoLiOx> you'll learn that you could melt lead in Venus, but it's Mercury that starts out the day scorching but ends way, way below freezing.

4. Is Pluto a planet? The answer is F, for false. According to NASA <http://go.nasa.gov/1gX0ROG>, Pluto was reclassified as a dwarf planet. It's not even as big as the Earth's moon.



5. You are heaviest on which planet? The bigger a planet is, the more you weigh. A 100 pound kid on Earth would weigh 236 pounds on Jupiter, but just 8 pounds on Pluto. If you could stand on the Sun, you'd weigh over 2,700 pounds! You can type in your exact weight and find out how much you weigh at <http://bitly.com/1Kkr4nR>.



APPLICATION

1. NASA Space Games <http://go.nasa.gov/1Ufdqmf>

2. Play an astronomy word search puzzle <http://bit.ly/1hjtQJt> or design your own planet <http://bit.ly/1PrON1i>

FIND ME SOME APPS!
Here are 85 planet or astronomy related apps from CTREX: <http://bitly.com/ctrastronomy>

YouTube Megan's Videos About Planets

Here's a set of hand picked videos from YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcBVHzUUEKwmjuia6cERdz98-ggTLvCgr>