



PLANETARY PARACHUTE™ 18878

Activity Guide



ABOUT THIS PARACHUTE

This parachute has a unique oval shape. It is intended to show the solar system, whilst providing a co-operative, educational, 'hands-on' activity that encourages movement as well as understanding of science and mathematics.

CONTENTS

1 x Planetary Parachute™

Please note: a foam ball is not included but this is helpful to maximise the activities possible with this parachute

USE

Suggested Activities:

Planetary Travel

Players roll an asteroid (a foam ball really!) into each of the solar system's orbits (the holes really!), starting with the sun, and working out to the last planet in the solar system. Add to the difficulty of this challenge by timing this and racing against the clock.

Alphabetical Planetary Travel

Players roll an asteroid (a foam ball really!) into each of the solar system's orbits (the holes really!), in alphabetical order. Add to the difficulty of this challenge by timing this and racing against the clock.

Smallest to Largest Planet

Players roll an asteroid (a foam ball really!) into each of the solar system's orbits (the holes really!), starting with the smallest and moving to the largest (or vice-versa). Add to the difficulty of this challenge by timing this and racing against the clock.

Night Time Space Travel

Use a glow in the dark ball and travel the solar system in a darkened environment!

Meteor Shower

Players shake the universe (parachute!) trying to keep the meteors (balls) out of the orbits (holes). Count each time a meteor lands in a hole. Set a time/number limit, and when that time/number is reached, the game ends.

Satellite

Players are lined up around the parachute and divided into two teams e.g. NASA red team versus NASA blue team. Players are positioned so that a player stands next to other players

from the opposing team e.g. Blue, Red, Blue ... and so on around the parachute. Each team tries to capture the satellite (foam ball). The red team has one minute to land the satellite as many times as possible on as many planets as possible. Whilst the red team tries this, the blue team tries to keep the satellite (ball) in orbit and so prevent them from letting the satellite land on a planet (fall into a net). When the minute is up, it's the blue team's turn to land the satellite and the red team's turn to try to stop them.

Exploring the Whole Solar System

Players begin with one space shuttle launch (or a bean bag or foam ball launch!) and try to land the shuttle on one of the planets. Once the first space shuttle has landed, another is launched and lands on another planet. This launch and landing continues until all the planets have been explored.

Orbit the Sun

Players demonstrate how the planets orbit the sun. The Planetary Parachute™ begins its orbit around the sun by moving anti-clockwise around the students that are holding the sun. Players can see how the planets orbit and the distance it takes each planet in its rotation around the sun.

Mystery Challenge

Place a card in each planet's hole so that when the ball lands on it, the player has to take the card and complete the challenge written on it. This could be a maths or spelling challenge ... For example:

How do you spell the name of this planet?

Add the number of planets together

Which planet is furthest from the sun?

If you were a planet, which would you be?

If you went into space, what would the sensory experience be like?

These are suggestions only. Modify these suggestions according to the needs and abilities of the players. Increase/decrease the difficulty of these challenges by varying the time limit and size/quantity of the balls/bean bags.

SAFETY

Always supervise the use of this product.

Play in a suitably clear space, free of obstacles.

Make sure balls/bean bags etc are aimed at the parachute and not at fellow players.

Use suitably safe and soft accessories such as balls. Use balls etc of a suitable weight so that these will not encourage the parachute to tear.

CARE & MAINTENANCE

Wipe with a slightly damp, clean cloth.

Do not use abrasive or bleach-based cleaning products.

SPECIFICATION

Size: 580cm x 396cm