

## Over Land and Outer Space Missions

5+ years

### Key learning areas

Learning about the planets in our solar system  
Developing science and space-related vocabulary  
Developing storytelling skills

### Materials needed

9302 Community Builders Set, 9305 Rescue Transport Set, 9320 Journey into Space Set, photos of planets in the solar system or a video of space exploration, 2 crossed sticks or a wire coat hanger per child (for creating mobile)

### Vocabulary

PLANETS, SOLAR SYSTEM, ORBIT

### Connect

10 min

- Show the children photos or a video about planets in outer space. Discuss the reasons why people explore outer space. Ask how people travel into outer space. Discuss the special features that a rocket or spaceship must have in order to reach and survive in outer space. Discuss how cold it is in some parts of outer space and how hot it is near the sun.
- Show the children your photos of the planets in our solar system. Ask if they can pick out the Earth.
- As time allows, talk about the nine planets (below) as you point to them in your photos. Explain that a solar system is a group of heavenly bodies that orbit around the sun. Tell the children a little bit about the nine planets in our solar system:  
“Mercury is the planet nearest the sun. Venus is known as the Earth’s ‘twin’ because the two planets are so similar in size. Earth is a small planet and is the third planet from the sun. Mars is the fourth planet from the sun. It is called the red planet because it looks red from the Earth. Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system. Saturn is the second largest planet. Uranus is the seventh planet from the sun. Neptune is one of the two planets that cannot be seen without a telescope. Pluto is the most distant planet from the sun.”



### Construct

15 min

- Have the children use LEGO® bricks to build a spaceship that could take them into outer space to explore a planet.
- Remind them to consider some of the special features that a spaceship needs in order to reach outer space and to survive there.



## exploring in a spaceship

5  
min

### Contemplate

- As the children build, ask if they would really like to be an astronaut and explore a planet. Ask them what they would like to find out if they landed on a distant planet.

10  
min

### Continue

- Have the children name their spaceship and tell the others about its features. Ask them to tell which planet they are pretending to travel to and why.
- Modify your spaceship so that you can live for a short time on the planet you are exploring.

### Continue at home

- Ask the children to make a rocket or spaceship and hang it with string or fishing line from the mobile sticks or wire you have given them. Explain that this is the start of their outer space mobile, and they will add more space objects to it as they go along. Tell them to hang it up in their room.

5  
min

### Record

- In their workbooks, have the children name and color the Earth.

### Assess

- Ask questions such as: Would the planet that is closest to the sun be hotter or colder than the planet that is farthest away?