



Salt Painting Our Solar System

Create colorful artwork showing the planets in our solar system.

LEARNING GOALS

- Learn some of the characteristics of the planets in our solar system

GET READY

Prior to your group gathering, you may want to watch pbs.org/parents/crafts-for-kids/salt-watercolors/ to see a sample video of salt painting.

Prepare your work space by placing plastic trays at each work station or by lining your work surface with newspapers. This will protect your work surface during the art project. Spread out the bottles of glue, salt, and paint or food coloring so that each pair or small group of children can easily share the supplies.

Tell the children that today they are going to watch a video about our solar system. After they watch the video, they will get to make a salt painting that shows our Sun and the planets in our solar system.

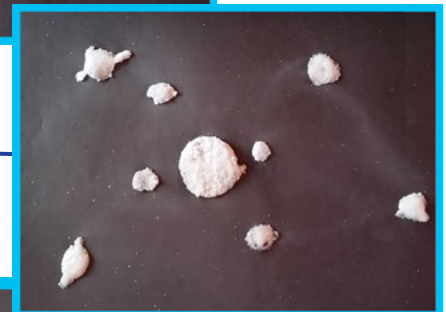
With your group, view [The Solar System Song](https://pbskids.org/learn) video clip available at pbskids.org/learn. Ask the children to observe the size and colors of each planet shown in the song so that they know what sizes and colors to make their planets in their salt paintings. You can also print out the picture of the solar system included with this activity and let the children reference it while doing the art project.

ITEMS NEEDED

- Construction paper; one piece per child
- Bottles of white school glue
- Liquid water color paint or food coloring
- Droppers if using water color paints
- Salt
- Plastic trays or newspaper
- Optional: Printed picture of our solar system



Glue



Salt



Food Coloring





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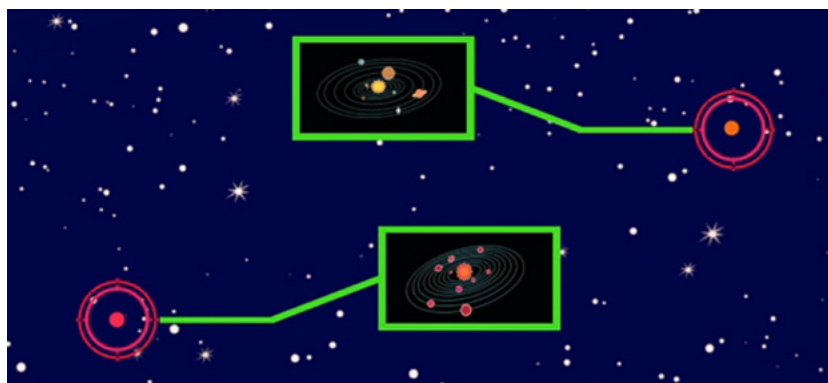
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EXCELSIOR! LET'S HAVE FUN!

1. Give each child a piece of construction paper.
2. Each child should squeeze the glue bottle to draw a round circle on the paper. Give the children guidance on how big to make the circle based on the size of the construction paper. Fill the circle in with glue. This will be your sun.
3. Make eight additional glue filled circles on the paper to represent each of the eight planets in our solar system. You may also want to talk about the order of the planets from the Sun and their general colors. Be sure to add rings to Saturn and Uranus.
4. Help children pour a thick layer of salt over the glue. Gently shake the paper to remove any loose salt. The salt should now be stuck to any glue on the paper.
5. Using eye droppers or food coloring droppers, the children should squeeze drops of liquid water color paint or food coloring onto each circle of salted glue. They can start with 2 or 3 drops and add more if needed. Children can decide if they want to use one color for a planet or mix colors to make a planet. For example, Earth has both blue and green colors. Remind the children to rinse out the dropper before using a new color, or you can have a different dropper available for each color.
6. Let the salt paintings dry.

FOR MORE FUN!

- Continue salt painting to add stars, moons, and asteroids to your picture or add these items using light colored crayons.
- Create another salt painting showing Jet's solar system. The sun is red in his solar system!
- Sing along with *The Solar System Song* as you watch the video clip.



Take a look at our solar system and Jet's solar system. Can you recreate these with salt painting?

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Lyrics for The Solar System Song

Written by Craig Bartlett

If you count the planets - orbiting the sun
There's something cool about ev'ry single one!
So everybody, gather 'round and listen
While I sing a song about our solar system!

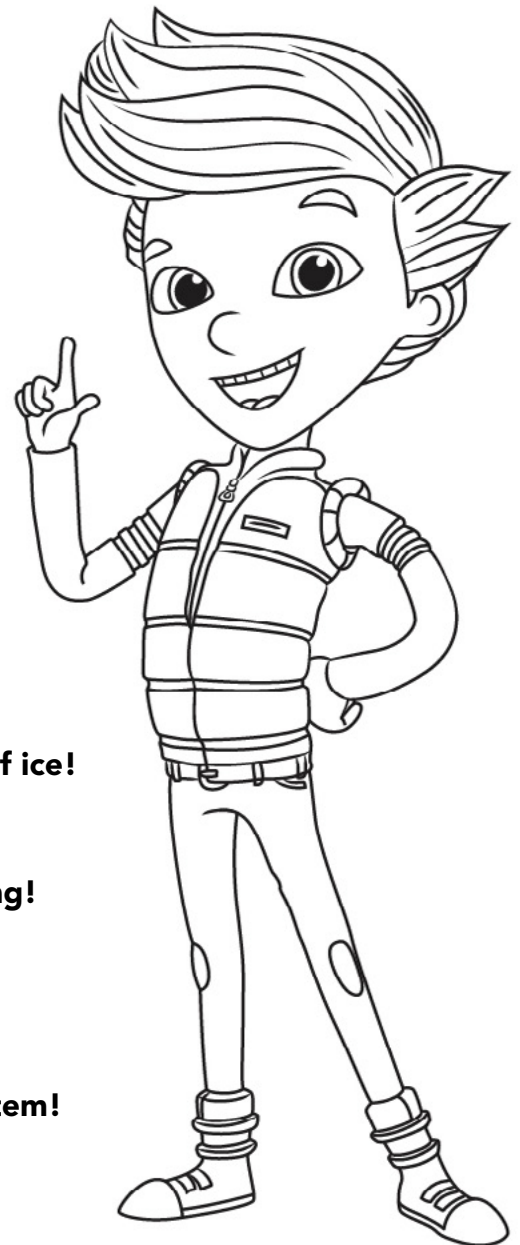
Planet one is Mercury, it's tiny and it's speedy!
Planet two is Venus - it's bright and super-heaty!
Planet three is Earth, the lovely ocean-covered one!
Planet four is Mars, it's cold because the air is mostly gone!

Then you cross a belt of broken chunks of asteroids,
Big and little comets, rocks and baby - planetoids!
The next four planets spinning out here really, really fast
are giants - and they're mostly made of gas!

Planet five is Jupiter, the biggest of the lot,
Big enough to fit three Earths inside that great red spot!
Planet six is Saturn - and it's especially nice,
This ball of gas is wearing rings, and they're mostly made of ice!

Planet seven's Uranus - and here's the funny thing:
It's tipped over on its side, look at that skinny sideways ring!
Planet eight is Neptune - I'm afraid that that's the last,
Blue Neptune's just a big ol' ball of cold hydrogen gas!

And that's our song! Thanks a lot for giving it a listen,
Now take a bow for learning 'bout our awesome solar sys-tem!



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Our Solar System

Print out this image to share with children during the salt painting activity.
Laminate the picture for long term use.

