

Planetary Parachute™

Item #12699

What Are the Educational Applications?

Planetary Parachute is designed as a multidisciplinary parachute activity integrating physical education, science, and math into school curriculum.

How Can I Use This Product With My Participants?

The Planetary Parachute is the first oval-shaped parachute created to model our solar system as it orbits the sun. The Planetary Parachute can be used as a cooperative educational activity that provides a variety of movement skills integrated with science and math concepts. It provides a “hands-on” activity in which the students can see, feel, and interact with our solar system. The Planetary Parachute is an innovative concept that allows students and teachers to travel the universe right in their own school.

Activities:

Activity #1: Planetary Travel

The students roll an asteroid (foam ball) into each of the solar system’s orbits starting with the sun and working out to the last planet in our solar system. This is a timed event! The asteroid must stop on each part of the solar system (fall into their orbit by falling into the hole) before it continues to the next part.

Options:

- travel the solar system in alphabetical order
- travel the system from largest to smallest part or smallest to largest
- travel the system at night (use a glow-in-the-dark ball)

Activity #2: Meteor Shower

The students shake the universe trying to keep the meteors from entering the planets’ orbits. Each time a meteor enters a planet, a point is scored for the meteors. Once 10 meteor points have been scored, the game ends. A new game begins trying to keep the meteors out of the orbits for a longer period of time.

Activity #3: Satellite

The students are lined up around the Planetary Parachute for this activity and are divided into 2 teams. Every other person on the parachute is on NASA Red Team or NASA Blue Team. (Students are lined up: red, blue, red, blue, red, blue around the parachute.) NASA is having an interagency challenge. The Red Team has challenged the

Blue Team to a game of Capture the Satellite (foam ball). The Red Team has 1 minute to land the satellite as many times as possible on as many planets as possible. The Blue Team will try to keep the satellite in orbit without letting it land on a planet (fall into a net). After 1 minute the Blue Team tries the landings and the Red Team tries to keep the satellite in orbit.

Activity #4: Exploring the Whole Solar System

The students begin with one Space Shuttle launch (beanbag, foam ball, etc.) and try to land the shuttle on one of the planets. Once Space Shuttle #1 has landed another is launched and lands on a different planet. This launch and landing continues until all planets are explored.

Activity #5: Orbit the Sun

This simple, yet very educational, activity has the students demonstrate how the planets orbit the sun. The Planetary Parachute begins its orbit around the sun by moving counter-clockwise around the students that are holding the sun. The students can see how the planets orbit and the distance it takes each planet in its rotation around the sun.

Increase the Challenge: Here are a few tips to increase the challenge for the activities.

- Vary/change the amount of objects involved in the task.
- Change/decrease the time allowed for the activity.
- Change the size of the balls/objects being used.

How Does this Product Relate to Current Educational Thinking?

The Council on Physical Education for Children (COPEC) developed the position statement “Developmentally Appropriate Physical Education Practices for Children”. Twenty-six components of a physical education program have been identified. Developmentally appropriate and inappropriate examples are provided as guidelines for recognizing the best practices (appropriate) and the most counterproductive practices (inappropriate). These guidelines are useful as a decision-making tool for developing quality physical education programs.

Active Participation for Every Child—Appropriate Practices

- All children are involved in activities that allow them to remain continuously active. Classes are designed to

meet a child's need for active participation in all learning experiences.

Competition—Appropriate Practices

- Activities emphasize self-improvement, participation, and cooperation instead of winning and losing.

Gender Directed Activities—Appropriate Activities

- Girls and boys have equal access to individual, partner, small group, and team activities. Both girls and boys are equally encouraged, supported, and socialized towards successful achievement in all realms of physical activities.

Safety

As with any targeting game, it is important to position the participants to minimize the risk of being struck by balls that miss their intended target. The pace of play during the activity will also factor into the movement of the target objects. A controlled group will have more success and will also operate in a safer environment.



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Do you have an idea for a brand new product or a new game idea? We would be happy to speak with you - contact us at <http://www.FlagHouse.com/NewIdeas>

Please direct your questions or concerns regarding this product to the appropriate office listed below between the hours of 8AM-6PM Eastern Time

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