The Booklist Project

Focus: The Solar System
Grade Span: 2-4
Developed by: Jessica Pasquarelli D’Orsi
SU I 2013
This book introduces readers to all of the planets in our solar system. It divides the planets into three categories: rocky planets, balls of gas, and far out in space. This book offers bright and vibrant illustrations with captions and labels. Content related vocabulary is in bold and a student friendly glossary is located in the back of the book. This feature is great for ELLs. The author has also provided a list of websites for students to explore to learn more about space.

Links: Lesson plan [www.k8science.org/space/Butterflies_in_Space_Larvae_Frass.ppt](http://www.k8science.org/space/Butterflies_in_Space_Larvae_Frass.ppt)
Title: The Planets
ISBN: 978-1-4488-7389-0
WIDA Proficiency Level: Entering
Reading Level: 1
Pages: 24
Available Formats: hardcover, paperback, English Spanish
Description: This book is ideal for level one ELLs. It introduces students to our sun, and each planet in our solar system. On each left page is a large, detailed picture and on each right page is a short sentence identifying the planet in the picture. The font size is large. The author of the book provides a website related to the book for students to explore.
Links: The publisher and author have suggested the following links for teachers:
http://www.esa.int/esaKIDS/en/SEMF8WVLWFE_OurUniverse_0.html
Link to the other great books in this series as well as an interactive activity

Title: Every Planet Has a Place
WIDA Proficiency Level: Developing
Reading Level: 3.0
Pages: 27
Available Formats: hardcover, paperback, Spanish and English
Description: This book is described as, “an adventure into outer space.” Baines introduces readers to the planets, sun, and moon in our solar system as well as asteroids and comets. This book would be great for developing ELLs because it has bright and vibrant pictures and a fairly large font. The pictures are also clearly labeled. Also the students featured in this book are from diverse backgrounds.

Links: Planet song
Video that can be used prior to reading
Title: *Planets Around the Sun*


**ISBN:** 0-439-46686-5  
**WIDA Proficiency Level:** Entering and Emerging  
**Reading Level:** 3.9  
**Word Count:** 439  
**Pages:** 32  
**Available Formats:** paperback

**Description:** In his book, Seymour introduces students to the nine planets, and the sun of our solar system. The size of each planet and the sun is compared to something familiar in students' lives. This will help ELLs envision the enormity of the planets. This book uses actual images from space. The text on each page is a large font and no more than three sentences long. This book is designed for beginning readers to improve their reading skills.

**Links:**  
Lesson plan:  
Title: What is the Solar System?
ISBN: 0-7660-2944-1
WIDA Proficiency Level: Bridging
Reading Level: 3.9
Word Count: 439
Pages: 32
Available Formats: paperback and hardcover

Description: This book is part of a series on the universe. This volume describes the planets of our solar system as well as meteorites, comets, and asteroids. Each page poses a question about the solar system and then answers it with details and pictures. Also on every page is a fun fact for students. This book is great for ELLs because each page follows the same format and clearly labels each picture. Many students’ friendly adjectives are used to describe the solar system. The comic like astronauts are diverse in both ethnicity and gender. Also there are connections made to students' lives. If students want to explore the subject further they can use the websites provided by the author.

Title: Exploring Space: The Solar System
ISBN: 978-1600144110
WIDA Proficiency Level: Emerging and Developing
Reading Level: 3.2
Word Count: 346
Pages: 24
Available Formats: hardcover and e-book
Description: This book relies more on text than pictures. However the text on each page is no more than three to four sentences long. The book explains what a solar system is and describes the geography of each planet. This book also introduces students to the job of astronauts and the tools they use to study space. This book is great for ELLs because there are detailed pictures that show exactly what the text is describing. Also there is a glossary of terms located in the back of the book.

Links: Fun class activities
https://sites.google.com/a/edenschool.net/grade4/science/solar-system-links
Title: Solar System
Citation: Goldsmith, M. (2004). Solar system. Boston, Massachusetts: Kingfisher
WIDA Proficiency Level: Developing and Expanding
Reading Level: 4.0
Pages: 47
Available Formats: hardcover, paperback, English and Spanish
Description: Goldsmith's book teaches students about the weather, size, and terrain of each planet in our solar system. It also gives students a brief history of space travel and exploration. The book provides actual pictures of the planets as well as detailed illustrations. This book is great for ELLs because at the bottom of each page key words are defined and explained. Also the author provides fun hands on activities students can complete to learn more about the solar system.

Links: Teacher and reader's guide 
About the Author http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/contributor/mike-goldsmith
Title: *Our Solar System*

Citation: Davis, A. (1997). Our solar system. New York, NY: The Rosen Publishing Group

ISBN: 0-8239-5060-3

WIDA Proficiency Level: Expanding and Bridging

Reading Level: 3.8

Lexile: 740L

Available Formats: hardcover

Description: Davis describes our solar system, its origins, and the orbit patterns of the planets. The planets are divided into two categories: gaseous and solid. Davis primarily focuses on the Earth, the sun, and the moon. This book will work for ELLs because key words are bolded within the text and the pronunciation is provided. The back of the book features a glossary of the bolded words. This book follows the same format throughout; pictures are on one side and text of two to three paragraphs are on the other.


[http://ak113.k12.sd.us/Portfolio/New_Folder/Social%20Studies-Science%20with%20Language%20Arts%20Unit.htm](http://ak113.k12.sd.us/Portfolio/New_Folder/Social%20Studies-Science%20with%20Language%20Arts%20Unit.htm)
Title: *Simply Science: The Solar System*

Citation: Rau Meachen, D. (2001). *Simply science: The solar system*. Minneapolis, MN: Compass Point Books


**WIDA Proficiency Level**: Expanding and Bridging

**Reading Level**: 2.6

**DRA**: 18-20

**Pages**: 32

**Guided Reading**: J

**Lexile**: 660L

**Available Formats**: Hardcover

**Description**: In her book Meachen introduces student to our solar system and provides a brief background on early scientists and space exploration. Each topic has a clear heading and pictures with captions. For each topic a question is posed then answered with one to two paragraphs of text. This book will be a great resource for ELLs because there is a detailed glossary of terms provided in the back of the book as well as web resources students can explore to learn more about the content.


This book was taught then students created their own solar system book

Title: *The Solar System*


ISBN: 978-1-59928-930-4

WIDA Proficiency Level: Developing

Reading Level: 4.3

Word Count: 1113

Pages: 32

Guided Reading: P

Available Formats: Hardcover

Description: In her book *The Solar System*, Howard educates her young readers on the planets, the way they orbit, and space exploration. She also provides current advancements in space travel and the space program. Each page also features a fun and interesting fact for students. This book will work for ELLs because it follows the same format throughout: text on one side and an image/illustration on the other. The pages with text feature no more than two paragraphs. Also a glossary of important terms is provided at the ends of the book.


Publisher's website with resources that go along with book [http://booklinks.abdopublishing.com/browse/title/?pid=8152&bb=search&s=solar%20syste](http://booklinks.abdopublishing.com/browse/title/?pid=8152&bb=search&s=solar%20syste)
The Booklist Project
A Project of the M.Ed. In TESL Program,

Feinstein School of Education and Human Development
Rhode Island College

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