Sean's Planet Game

Sean is an overly cautious neighbor of Jet's. He is very scientific and finds it hard to use his imagination. Sean wants to be an astronaut when he grows up and loves everything having to do with planets. Sean is full of scientific facts and uses those to play this game! Help Sean visit all of the planets using Math!

What you'll need:

- 1 Piece of white construction paper per team
- Colored pencils, crayons or markers
- 1 set of number cards
- Pencil
- Notebook paper
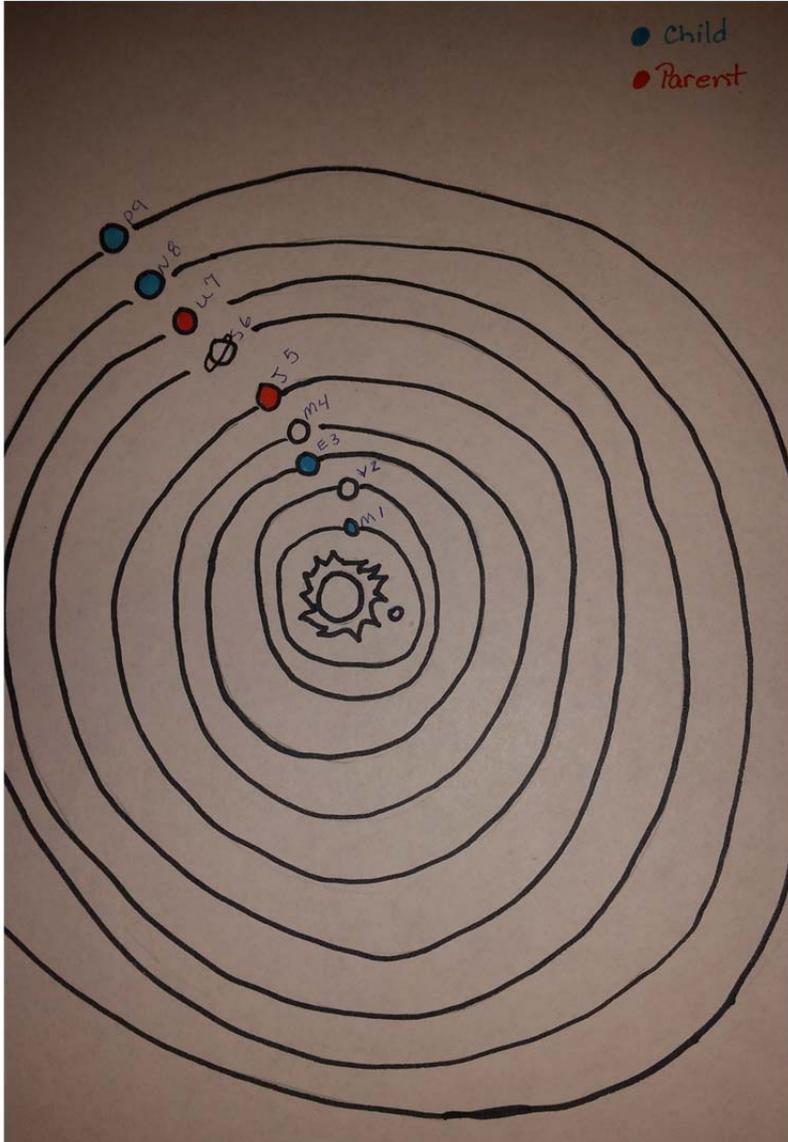- Poster of Planets in the Solar System

The Activity:

This is a learning mash-up that is a great way to get children interested in science and math while competing. Players will navigate the game using addition, subtraction and multiplication while exploring the solar system. Whoever colors in the most planets wins!

- Explain to students that there are 9 planets in the solar system. (Take a moment to explain the controversy over Pluto. An astronomer discovered Pluto in 1930. Pluto was known as the smallest planet in the solar system and the ninth planet from the sun. Astronomers have gone back and forth over the years, trying to decide if Pluto is an actual planet. Today, Pluto is called a "dwarf planet." A dwarf planet orbits the sun just like other planets, but it is smaller. Walt Disney's dog, Pluto, was named after the planet!) Sun, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto.
- Make a game board on a vertical piece of white paper. In the center of the image, draw the outline of a sun with a black marker.
- Provide each team with a piece of notebook paper in order to work their math problems.
- Draw 9 concentric rings around the sun, one ring per plant in our solar system. Make a black outline drawing of each planet.
- Next to each drawing, write the corresponding initial and number placement from the sun. (SUN 0, M 1, V 2, E 3, M 4, J 5, S 6, U 7, N 8, P 9.
- Have your child shuffle the deck and place it face down.
- Each player chooses their own color of writing utensil and creates a key on the top of the paper.
- Each player takes 2 cards at a time. They can choose to use any math system including addition, subtraction, or multiplication to combine the two cards they choose, trying to end up with any number between 1 and 9.
- If the answer is between 1 and 9, the player gets to color in the corresponding planet in order of their distance from the sun. For example, if a player draws a 1 and a 4, adds it to get a 5, they would color in Jupiter because it is the 5th planet from the sun.
- The player can only color in a planet that has not been colored in yet, therefore, if they had drawn a 1 and a four, they might use subtraction to get a 3, or multiplication to get a four.

- Have teams play until time is up or they color in all the planets.
- The player with the most colored in planets, WINS!

To be used at home:

Print on card stock

1	2	3
4	5	6

7	8	9
10	11	12