

# CREATE A PLANET PUZZLE LESSON PLAN



**Time:** approximately 60-90 minutes, which can be split into 2 or 3 sessions

## Instructional Goals:

- The student will use the PebbleGo Earth and Space online database to research a planet in our solar system.
- The student will use keyword searching to locate needed information.
- The student will analyze information to select ten important words about the planet.
- The student will create a planet word search using ten words about the planet.
- The student will be introduced to the concept of citing sources using a simplified bibliography.

## Materials/Resources:

- PebbleGo Earth and Space online database
- Planet Research Notes booklet (copy double-sided)
- Planet Word Search

## Directions:

### Focus

1. Ask students to brainstorm a list of the planets in our solar system.
2. Explain to students that they are going to research one of the planets in our solar system. They are going to use an online database called PebbleGo Earth and Space as their research source.

### Teach/Model

3. Walk students through the process of accessing the PebbleGo Earth and Space online database.
4. Show students how keyword searching works by searching for one of the planets in the "Search" box of the database.
5. Demonstrate the read-aloud function by clicking on the appropriate button and listening to the text being read aloud.
6. Show students the tabs at the bottom of the screen that allow them to scroll through the information in the article.
7. Demonstrate how students can retrace their steps by using the green back button.
8. Demonstrate how students can use the Video button(s) to see a video. Explain they will need to watch the video, look at the pictures, and use the information in the text to help them complete their Planet Research Notes booklet.

## Guided Practice



9. Ask students several questions about the planet. Have students lead you through the process of clicking on the different tabs until they discover the answers as a group.
10. Explain to students that researchers must tell which source(s) they used to find their research information. The list of their information sources is called a bibliography. Demonstrate where they can locate the citation for this source by clicking on the Cite This Article button.

## Independent Practice

11. Allow each student to choose a planet to research. Give each student a Planet Research Notes booklet to complete.
12. Explain to students they are to use keyword searching in PebbleGo Earth and Space to locate the needed information about their planet.
13. Monitor student progress as they work to complete the Planet Research Notes booklet.
14. After completing their research, have students analyze their information and choose ten important words about the planet they researched. These words could include the names of the planet's moons, the types of special features the planet has, or what the planet is made of.

## Closure

15. Have each student complete the Planet Word Search using the list of ten important planet words they created.
16. They should fill the words in the blank grid, writing them vertically, horizontally, or diagonally.
17. Ask students to check their spelling on their Planet Word Search with the spelling in their Planet Research Notes booklet.
18. Have students write their ten important planet words on the lines underneath their word search. Students should then complete their word search grid with other letters to "hide" their ten important planet words.
19. Students may trade Planet Word Search puzzles with a partner and work to complete their partner's word search.

## Extend/Enrich

- Students may work with a partner to create Venn diagrams comparing two or more planets using their research notes.
- Students may create crossword puzzles using their planet research information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Planet Word Search




Search for these words about the planet \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

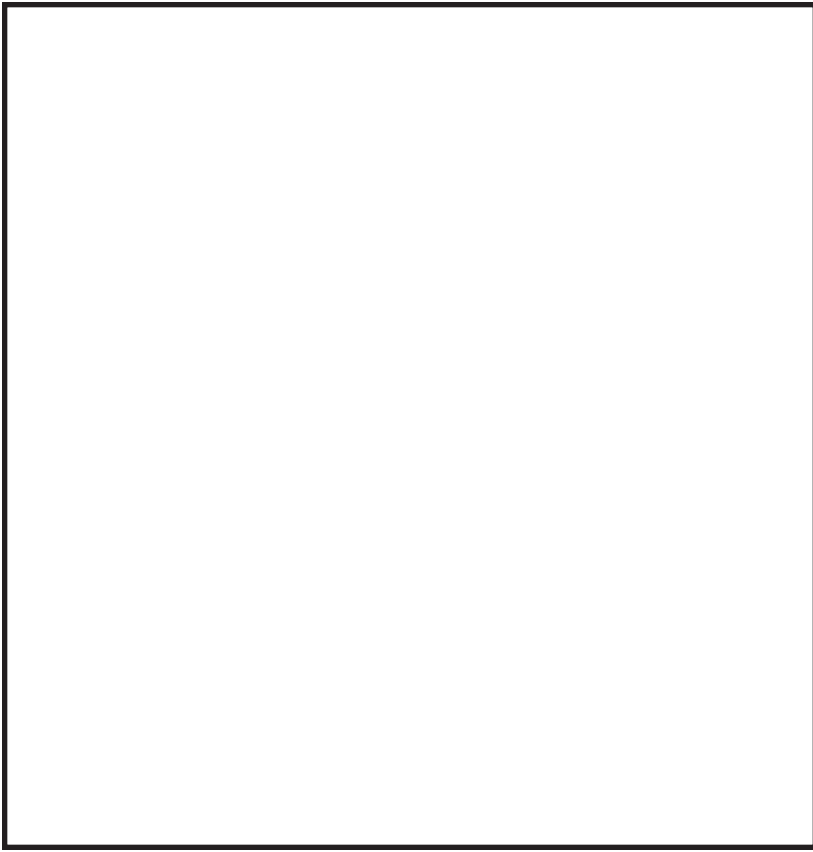
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# Planet Research Notes about

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Draw and color a picture of this planet.

Research Notes by

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Write at least one new interesting fact  
about this planet.

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## Bibliography

I found my information in

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How far is this planet from the sun?

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What is this planet made of?

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Which special features does this planet have?

moons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Color <input type="checkbox"/> for yes.	Color <input type="checkbox"/> for no.
rings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
volcanoes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
craters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

How long does it take this planet to orbit the sun one time?

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How long does it take this planet to rotate one time?

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