

Les planètes (The Planets)

1. Introducing the planets

Prior Knowledge: It is helpful if children already know the days of the week, *le soleil*, the planets and their order in English.

Objectives

Develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases.

Explore the patterns and sounds of language and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words.

Support

Written phrases can be accompanied by visual prompts for those children who require more support with their reading.

Extension

Ask children what helps them remember the order of the planets, e.g. do they use a mnemonic? Children research mnemonics that French children might use for the planets.

Main

Use picture flashcards or images on the interactive whiteboard to introduce the nine planets and to practise pronunciation. Say the first syllable or sound of a planet's name and children complete the word, e.g. *Mer-cure*. Children could clap the names using a pattern of beats (see Unit 13).

ICT Opportunities: There are many beautiful images of planets on the internet, e.g. on the NASA website (www.nasa.gov). You can also find animations that show the planets revolving.

Invite children to recall the names of the planets in the correct order.

ICT Opportunities: Display images of planets on the interactive whiteboard and ask children to drag and drop them into the correct order while saying them out loud.

Before showing the written words, challenge the children to write them using their knowledge of phoneme–grapheme correspondence. Most children should be able to make a good attempt at *Uranus*, *Vénus*, *Pluton* and *Neptune*.

Show the written word for each planet and practise pronunciation. Highlight the final *s* in *Vénus* and *Uranus* and ask children what is the normal rule for the pronunciation of final consonants in French i.e. the final consonant is usually silent. Point out that a small number of words do pronounce the *s* in the singular form including *Vénus* and *Uranus*.

Display pictures of the planets on the board and invite two children to play *Touchez l'image* (Touch the Picture). Call out the name of a planet and the first child to touch the correct picture gains a point. To keep the rest of the class involved, secretly show them the written word before it is called out.

Remind children of *le soleil* and introduce *la lune* (the moon). Ask the children to listen to the sound of the word and think about how it might be written. To help them further, ask them which planet it rhymes with (*Neptune*). Once you have shown the written word, ask the children how the sound would change if the final *e* were omitted. Display the flashcards or images of the nine planets, the sun and the moon on the same board and ask children if they can match a day of the week to a planet, the moon or the sun (see Teaching Tips). To help children associate the sun with *dimanche*, ask them to think of its English translation.

Play Ping-Pong where you 'bat' a planet, the moon or the sun and children 'bat' back a day of the week.

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<p>Grammar</p> <p><u>For teachers:</u></p> <p>No specific grammar</p>	<p>Grammar</p> <p><u>For children:</u></p> <p>No specific grammar</p>	<p>Phonics focus</p> <p><u>For teachers:</u></p> <p>When singular words end in s, the s is usually not pronounced e.g. <i>le jus</i>. However a small number of words do pronounce the s in the singular form including <i>Vénus</i> and <i>Uranus</i>.</p> <p>è – planète</p> <p>on – Pluton</p>	<p>Phonics focus</p> <p><u>For teachers:</u></p> <p>When singular words end in s, the s is usually not pronounced e.g. <i>le jus</i>. However a small number of words do pronounce the s in the singular form including <i>Vénus</i> and <i>Uranus</i>.</p>
<p><u>Learning Outcomes</u></p> <p>Children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say new words with accurate pronunciation and intonation Use clues to help them understand and remember new words 		<p><u>NEW NATIONAL CURRICULUM LINKS</u></p> <p>ENGLISH</p> <p><u>Reading</u> - Years 3 - 4</p> <p>Pupils should be taught to apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes (etymology and morphology), both to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words they meet</p> <p>Science</p> <p><u>Earth and Space</u> - Year 5</p> <p>Pupils should learn that the Sun is a star at the centre of our solar system and that it has eight planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn Uranus and Neptune (Pluto was reclassified as a 'dwarf planet' in 2006)</p>	
<p><u>Throughout the week</u></p> <p>Play <i>Touchez l'image</i> in class.</p> <p>Each day ask children to identify the planet linked to that day, and identify the planet image on a wall display.</p>		<p><u>Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picture flashcards or images of the nine planets, the moon and the sun Word cards for the planet names Downloadable animations of the planets 	
<p><u>Teaching Tips</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nine planets are: <i>Mercure</i> (Mercury), <i>Vénus</i> (Venus), <i>la Terre</i> (the Earth), <i>Mars</i> (Mars), <i>Jupiter</i> (Jupiter), <i>Saturne</i> (Saturn), <i>Uranus</i> (Uranus), <i>Neptune</i> (Neptune) and <i>Pluton</i> (Pluto). Note that Pluto is now classified as a 'dwarf planet', <i>une planète naine</i>. Ensure that the planets are introduced in the correct order, so that children 			

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get used to this.

- The days of the week associated with the planet names in French are;
lundi=la lune, mardi=mars, mercredi=mercure, jeudi=Jupiter, vendredi=venus, samedi=saturne

<i>Le langage du prof</i>	Teacher Language	<i>Le langage des enfants</i>	Children's Language
<i>Ecoutez et répétez / Ecoute et répète</i> <i>Associez/Associe un jour à une planète</i> <i>Touchez l'image</i> <i>Mercure / Vénus / Mars / Jupiter /</i> <i>Saturne / Uranus / Neptune / Pluton</i> <i>la Terre / la lune / le soleil</i> <i>lundi / mardi / mercredi / jeudi /</i> <i>vendredi / samedi / dimanche</i>	Listen and repeat (plural/ singular) Match (plural/singular) a day with a planet Touch the picture Mercury / Venus / Mars / Jupiter / Saturn / Uranus / Neptune / Pluto the Earth / the moon / the sun Monday / Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday / Friday / Saturday / Sunday	<i>Mercure / Vénus / Mars / Jupiter /</i> <i>Saturne / Uranus / Neptune / Pluton</i> <i>la Terre / la lune / le soleil</i> <i>lundi / mardi / mercredi / jeudi / vendredi</i> <i>/ samedi / dimanche</i>	Mercury / Venus / Mars / Jupiter / Saturn / Uranus / Neptune / Pluto the Earth / the moon / the sun Monday / Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday / Friday / Saturday / Sunday