

# Planet Research Project

## OVERVIEW:

NASA is preparing to send a manned mission to each of the nine planets in our solar system, and you are on their research team. NASA has asked you to become an expert on one of the nine planets. They need you to find as much information as possible on the planet so they can plan their mission. You will need to give a presentation to NASA's mission leader (Mrs. Jugenitz) and your fellow researchers. Please read below for what you will need to do to get ready for your presentation.

## REQUIREMENTS:

*There are 3 parts to this project, a written part, a visual part, and an oral part.*

1. **WRITTEN PART:** Write a research paper that gives all the information you learned about your planet. (28 points)

### *Required Information to Include:*

- All information on page 3 (*What to include in Your Project*)
- Bibliography Page (Cite all your sources on a separate sheet of paper).

2. **VISUAL PART:** Create a poster or a realistic model (paper Mache or another creative medium) for your topic. (32 points)

### *Required Information to Include:*

- Title
- Name (on back of poster or somewhere on model)
- Information from your written part: please be sure to portray realistic physical attributes of your topic
- 3-5 Pictures that relate to your topic (on model: this should be 3-5 labeled characteristics or attributes)

3. **ORAL PART:** Prepare a 3-5 minute presentation on your topic. You will need to use what you made for your visual part during your presentation. (48 points including the self-assessment).

- **NOTE:** When you add the points for all 3 parts of the project, the total points are **108 points**.

### **GOOD WEBSITES TO USE FOR RESEARCH:**

1. <http://www.nasa.gov>
2. <http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/index.cfm>
3. <http://pds.jpl.nasa.gov/planets/>
4. [http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/solar\\_system/planets/planets\\_index.html](http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/solar_system/planets/planets_index.html)
5. <http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/index.html>
6. <http://learn.arc.nasa.gov/planets/1/index.html>
7. <http://www.nasa.gov/worldbook/index.html>
8. <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/astronomy/planets/>
9. <http://www.space.com/planets/>
10. <http://www.nineplanets.org/>
11. <http://www.nasm.si.edu/etp/>
12. <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/objects/planets>
13. <http://www.exploratorium.edu/ronh/weight/>
14. [http://www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/our\\_solar\\_system/solar\\_system.html&edu=high](http://www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/our_solar_system/solar_system.html&edu=high)
15. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/solarsystem/ax/low.html?2d>

**Don't forget about the books and videos at the library! Go ask a librarian for help finding resources! You'll get plenty of resources! Have fun!**

**DO NOT USE JUST WEBSITES AS YOUR RESOURCES!  
YOU NEED TO USE BOOKS!**

## WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PROJECT:

### • History

- Who discovered your planet? When? How? Where?
- Describe how the planet got its name.
- OPTIONAL: Place a photo (with a caption) of the planet symbol and if possible, the discoverer as well.

### • Solar System

- Order from the sun.
- Distance from the sun in AU, km or miles.
- Orbital period (how long is one trip around the sun?)
- Rotation (length of one day).
- How big is your planet?
- OPTIONAL: Place a photo on this slide that shows where your planet is located in relation to other planets.

### • Composition and Atmosphere

- Describe the core and surface composition (what it is made of) of your planet.
- Describe the composition (what it has in it) of the atmosphere if any. If your planet does not have an atmosphere, simply state your planet does not have one.
- OPTIONAL: Include a photo (with a caption) of the inside of your planet (found on the [enchantedlearning.com](http://enchantedlearning.com) website).

### • Surface Conditions

- List surface temperatures – coldest, hottest, average.
- Describe the details about weather found on your planet. If you are doing Jupiter or Neptune, this is where you should show and tell about the large spot.

### • Moons (if applicable)

- How many moons does your planet have?
- Provide several facts about one of the interesting moons.
- List moon names in your presentation
- OPTIONAL: Include a photo (with a caption).

### • Rings (if applicable)

- Provide a few facts about the rings surrounding your planet.
- OPTIONAL: Include a photo (with a caption) of the rings.

### • Exploration (if applicable)

- List satellite names and dates that have explored your planet.
- Describe one of the missions to your planet
- OPTIONAL: Include a photo of at least one of the satellites that has visited your planet.

# Self Assessment

**Project:** Planet/Solar System Project

**Your Name:**

**Due Date for Self Assessment:** To be turned in the morning of the day of your presentation

***Please write at least one paragraph for each one!***

*I did well on this project because I:*

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*Next time, I could do better by:*

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