

LKS2 – Lesson Plan 1 – Geography

How is Earth different from the other planets?

Aim: To compare Earth with other planets in our solar system and understand why Earth is special for life.	Key Words: planet, solar system, atmosphere, orbit, temperature, gravity, Earth, compare, survive, habitat	Preparation: - Fact cards or information sheets about each planet - Images showing planet surfaces and sizes - Solar system poster or inflatable planet set - Venn diagram templates or comparison charts - Globe and map of the Earth - Worksheet: "Planet Profiles"
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Prior Learning: Children are aware that the Earth is one of many planets in space and that planets orbit the Sun.

WC / PT	<u>Warm-up:</u> Show images or a short video of the solar system. Ask: - What do you notice about Earth compared to the others? - Which planets look hot or cold? Why might that be? Introduce the idea that Geographers study Earth, but scientists study planets — today we'll do both!	0-5 mins
WC	<u>Main Teach:</u> Go over key facts about each planet (size, distance from the Sun, atmosphere, surface, temperature). Use visuals or props for impact. Focus questions: - Which planets are gas giants? - Which planets are rocky like Earth? - What makes Earth unique (e.g. liquid water, breathable air, life)? Introduce a Venn diagram to compare Earth with another planet (e.g. Earth and Mars).	5-10 mins

I / S	<u>Activity:</u> Create a 'Planet Comparison Guide' Children work in pairs or small groups to: - Choose one planet to compare with Earth. - Use information sheets or fact cards to record: - Temperature - Atmosphere - Surface (rocky/gas) - Gravity - Can anything live there? - Create a comparison poster or booklet titled: <i>"Why Earth is Just Right!"</i> Include diagrams, facts, and captions.	10-30 mins
I	<u>Extension Challenge:</u> Children choose a planet and design a space habitat that could help humans live there. Include features like oxygen tanks, temperature control, or protective suits.	30-35 mins
WC	<u>Plenary:</u> Discussion: - Which planet was most like Earth? - What would be the hardest thing about living on another planet? - Why should we look after Earth? Display key learning with a class-made poster: <i>"Earth: Our Home in Space"</i>	35-40 mins

WC – Whole Class

PT – Partner Talk

I – Independent

S - Support

Challenge A	English Link: Write a travel brochure: <i>"Come and Visit Mars!"</i> — describe the planet and what to pack.
Challenge B	Art Link: Create a textured artwork of two planets (e.g. Earth and Jupiter) using pastels, foil, or paint.