



FLYING TO OUTER SPACE

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Players stand in a circle. All the players clap their hands on their laps and then clap their hands together, creating a rhythm (lap, clap, lap, clap). The group leader encourages everyone to chant. The object of the game is to be able to name a planet quickly. Remember, Pluto is no longer classified as a planet.

If you are working with a large group of children, pick five or six volunteers to stand up front with you. Let them know ahead of time that they are going to have to name a planet.

(Everyone chants) We're flying to outer space

(Everyone chants) We're flying to outer space

(You say) Zip! (Players repeat) Zip! (Make a "zipping" upwards hand motion across your body)

(You say) Zoom! (Players repeat) Zoom! (Make a "zooming" upwards hand motion with the opposite hand, across your body)

(You say) Name a planet (point to a player)

(Player 1 names a planet) MARS!

(You chant) Mars, Mars, Mars, Mars!

(Players repeat) Mars, Mars, Mars, Mars!

Then repeat the sequence

(Everyone chants) We're flying to outer space

(Everyone chants) We're flying to outer space

(You say) Zip! (Players repeat) Zip! (Make a "zipping" upwards hand motion across your body)

(You say) Zoom! (Players repeat) Zoom! (Make a "zooming" upwards hand motion with the opposite hand, across your body)

(You say) Name a planet (point to a player)

(Player 2 names a planet) VENUS!

(You chant) Venus, Venus, Venus, Venus!

(Players repeat) Venus, Venus, Venus, Venus!

Repeat the sequence

(Everyone chants) We're flying to outer space

(Everyone chants) We're flying to outer space

(You say) Zip! (Players repeat) Zip! (Make a "zipping" upwards hand motion across your body)

(You say) Zoom! (Players repeat) Zoom! (Make a “zooming” upwards hand motion with the opposite hand, across your body)

(You say) Name a planet (point to a player)

(Player 3 names a planet) EARTH!

(You chant) Earth, Earth, Earth, Earth!

(Players repeat) Earth, Earth, Earth, Earth!

Repeat, etc.

The group leader then decides when to conclude the journey. You can continue until all the planets are named (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune) or until you decide a stopping point.

Conclude the game by chanting:

We’re landing back on Earth!

We’re landing back on Earth!

(Continue chanting while lowering voice and crouching to signal “landing”)

We’re landing back on Earth!

We’re landing back on Earth!

End by saying

“Yay! Thank you for exploring outer space with me!” or

“You are all now honorary astronauts!” (Give audience a salute)

You can also modify the game by naming a “heavenly body.” You will have to say “heavenly body” very quickly to work within the rhythm of the chant or eliminate “heavenly” after saying it the first time. Heavenly bodies are natural objects visible in the sky (sun, star, moon, asteroid, north star, comet, etc.) This game is a great way to introduce a unit on Outer Space.