

Teacher Notes – Planet Walk

Symbols



This pencil icon indicates that students will be **writing** their responses to questions on their Traveler's Log page.

The calculator icon is the symbol for **mathematical** work. For many students a calculator may be a necessity.



This symbol denotes a **cooperative activity** in which students process the information they have gathered at the station. Instructions for each of the activities are included on the Traveler's Log. Additional information, if needed, will be in the following notes.

Traveler's Log page notes

Sun:

For the last step of the Pairs Share-Pairs Compare-Numbered Heads Together: The parent or teacher leader will ask group members to number off 1-4. The leader may use a spinner, a die, cards or other methods to randomly select numbers. The leader will then randomly call forward the group members with that certain number to share **one** of their three pieces of information. Previously shared information should not be repeated.

Remind students to count the steps that they take from this station to the next.

Mercury:

Remind students to count the steps that they take from this station to the next.

Venus:

Remind students to count the steps that they take from this station to the next.

Earth:

1. AWV – should be close to 500 steps
2. AWV – should be close to 150,000,000

How far does light travel in one year?

$$\frac{300,000 \text{ km}}{1 \text{ second}} \times \frac{60 \text{ seconds}}{1 \text{ minute}} \times \frac{60 \text{ minutes}}{1 \text{ hour}} \times \frac{24 \text{ hours}}{1 \text{ day}} \times \frac{365 \text{ days}}{1 \text{ year}} = 946,080,000,000 \text{ km/yr}$$

With a partner: The number of steps mathematically determined is 260.



Mars:

Six questions are been included in the activity so that students will read and think about all of the information on the signs. In your facilitation of this activity, you would, at the minimum, ask only four of the questions, potentially giving all students a chance to reply. If time allows, you could ask all six of the questions.

Asteroid Belt:

A page with information has been provided about the Asteroid Belt, even though there is not a sign. It is your decision whether or not to include information about this formation in the Traveler's Log for your students.

Jupiter:

Characteristics that students might place in the table are:

Relative size, Distance from the Sun, Number of moons, Prominent features visible from space, Length of one day, and Magnetic field.

Saturn:

Remember that many students have strengths in the Musical/Rhythmic modalities.

Uranus:

The pronunciation for this planet name was included on the Traveler's Log page to reduce uncertainty.

The leader may use a spinner, a die, cards or other methods to randomly select numbers.

Neptune:

If you are doing the entire planet walk, the Venn diagram is included once again so students have an opportunity to practice this useful graphic organizer.

Pluto:

It takes approximately 19,666,666.667 or 197,666,667 steps to travel from the Sun sign downtown to the Pluto sign at Kincaid.

Additional Information

Text from the signs has been included. If you choose, you may print copies for your students to use as part of their Traveler's Log.

The Traveler's Log can be printed as a complete document or as pages as needed.

Feedback

The Anchorage School District Science Curriculum department would appreciate feedback regarding the Traveler's Log Pages and activities. Please contact Texas Gail Raymond at Raymond_gail@asdk12.org or 742-4854.

