

Blast Off! A Space Counting Book

by Norma Cole

Illustrated by Marshall Peck



Author Norma Cole takes readers on a fact-filled trip through our solar system, and beyond. To extend and apply the math and science in the book, have children play “Orbit Kids” and write about it.

Orbit Kids: In a play area, use chalk to draw nine concentric circles, as the paths the nine planets take around the sun.

Choose one child to be the sun, and nine children to be the planets. Have each “planet” make a complete circle around the “sun.” Children can also be moons or rings that circle around the Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, or Neptune. Ask the “planets,” one by one, to make a certain number of revolutions around the “sun,” with all the other children counting out loud for each revolution.

Blast Off Again: Have the children come up with their own pages for a space counting book. For example, 1 sun, 2 moons orbiting Mars, 3 stars in Orion’s belt, 4 weather satellites, 5 asteroids, 6 craters on the moon, 7 stars in the constellation Pleiades, etc.

