

Grouping the Planets and Moons

In this activity, you will explore some of the characteristics of the planets and moons in our solar system using the *Solar System Cards*.

1. Organize the *Solar System Cards* into different categories based on the characteristics of the worlds. (The term “world” will be used to mean either a planet or moon.) Try to come up with as many different ways to sort the cards as possible. Here are a few to get you started:

terrestrial (rocky) vs. jovian (gaseous)
atmosphere vs. no atmosphere
smaller than Earth vs. larger than Earth

2. Record the various categories and which worlds belong in each.

3. Read FYI: *What Is a Planet?* Complete the reading guide and questions after reading.

4. Read FYI: *Objects in the Solar System*. Complete the reading guide and questions after reading.