

Planet Rhythm Game

Being able to hear and identify syllables will help children learn to read and spell. When we sing a song or say a poem, we naturally break words into syllables. In music we call it rhythm which is why teaching syllables and rhythms together in "Planet Rhythm Game" makes so much sense.

WHAT THEY LEARN

Breaking words into syllables, notating rhythms using eighth notes and quarter notes, names of planets

WHAT YOU NEED

- Rhythm visuals
- Rhythm sticks (optional)
- Paper and pencil (optional)



WHAT TO DO

- Begin saying the poem keeping the beat on your legs. Encourage children to join in.
- Say the planets in order and clap the rhythm (syllables) of each one.
- Once the children can say the poem and clap the planet's rhythm, show the picture of the planet.
- Unfold the visual to show the planet rhythm notated in eighth notes (ti-ti) and quarter notes (ta) to the class. Each syllable that they clapped gets one note. Some notes sound short while some sound long. Point out that the "ta" shows one full beat while the "ti-tis" divide that beat in half making two shorter sounds. Can they hear the difference?
- Say the chant again and have the children raise their hand if they would like to share the name of a planet and demonstrate the rhythm of the word. Have the class copy.
- Try this for as many of the planets as you would like.
- To test their listening skills, clap one of the planet's rhythms and see if they can guess which one it is. They'll quickly realize it can be more than one planet!

EXTENSION IDEAS:

- **RHYTHM STICKS** Pass out rhythm sticks to each child. Say the poem while keeping the beat on the rhythm sticks. Then hold up a planet rhythm and have them play it! Be sure to have them say the planet name while they play.
- **WRITING NOTES** Teach children how to notate the rhythms on paper. This brings another level of understanding to syllables while teaching basic musical notation.

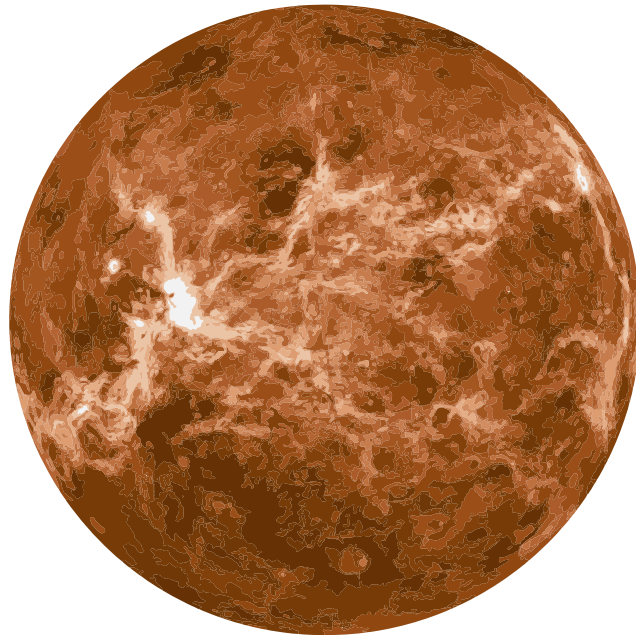
LYRICS

Every planet has a rhythm,
A rhythm in its name.
Let's hear how they sound
In our planet rhythm game.

Planet Names:

Mer-cu-ry (ti-ti ta)
Ven-us (ta ta)
Earth (ta)
Mars (ta)
Jup-it-er (ti-ti ta)
Sat-urn (ta ta)
Ur-a-nus (ti ti ta)
Nep-tune (ta ta)





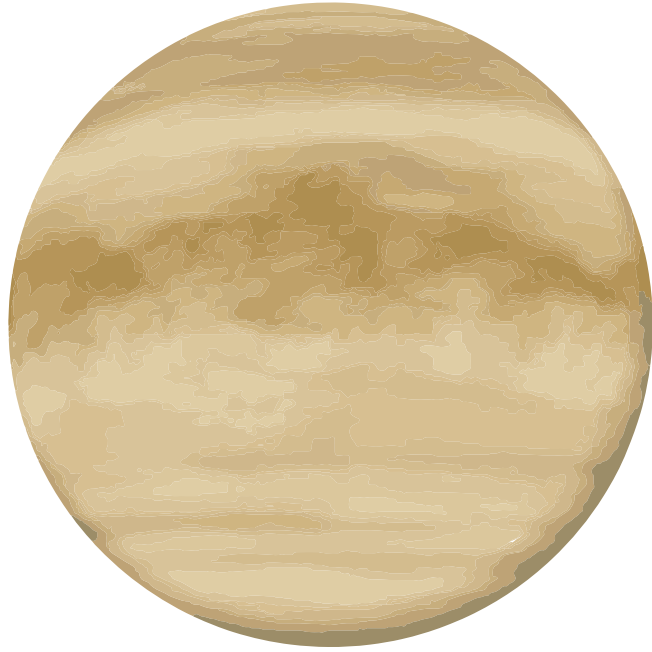
Mercury



Mer-
ti-

cu-
ti

ry
ta



Venus



Ve-
ta



nus
ta



Earth



Earth

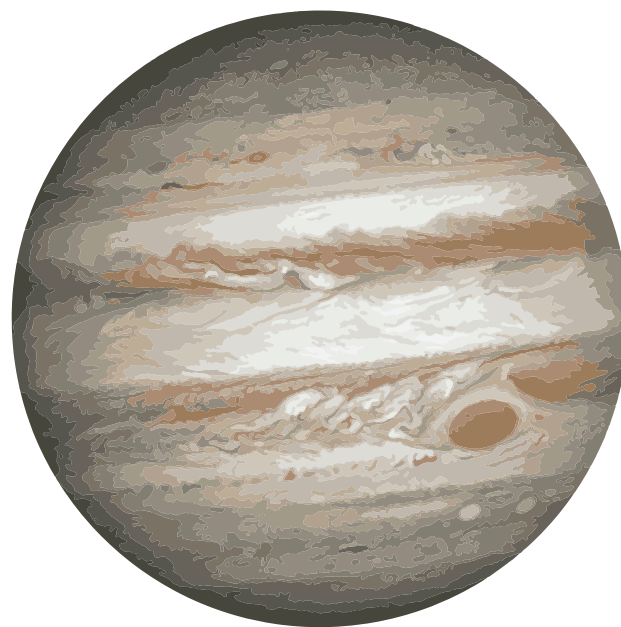
ta



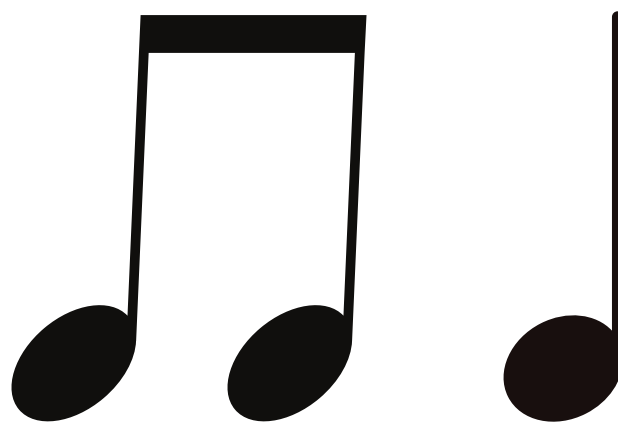
Mars



Mars
ta



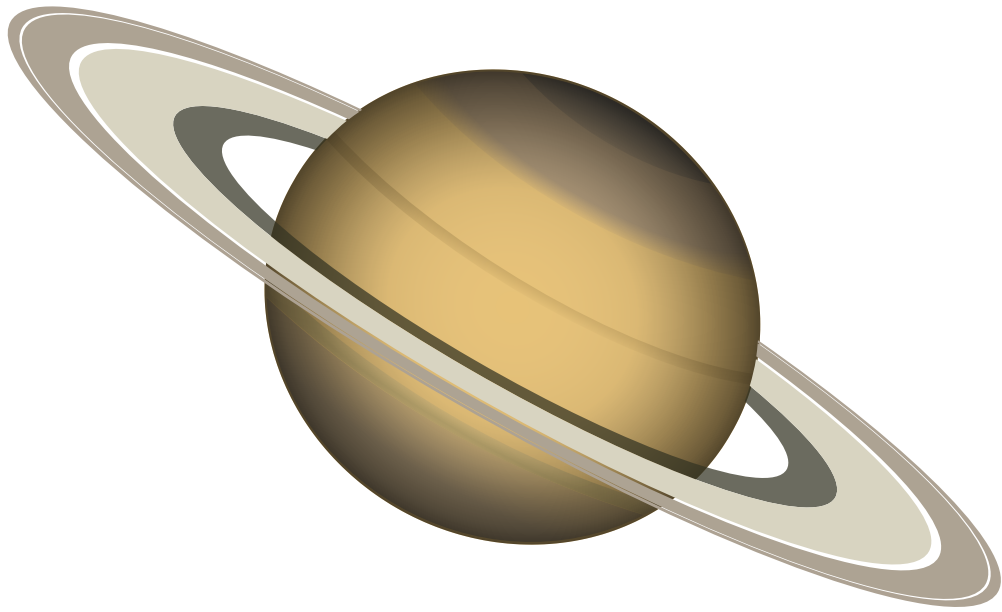
Jupiter



JU-
ti-

pi-
ti

ter
ta



Saturn



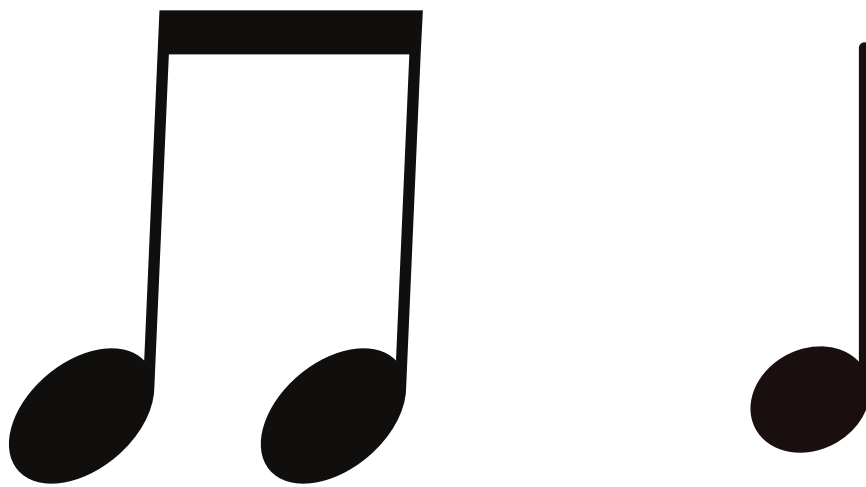
Sa-
ta



turn
ta



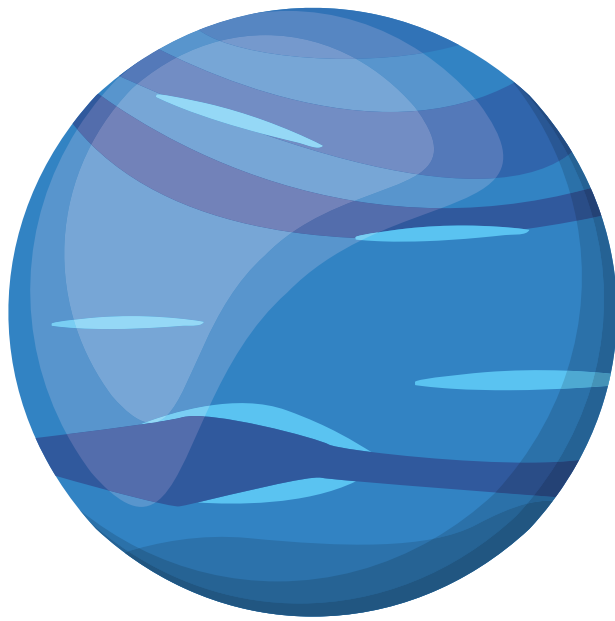
Uranus



**U-
ti**

**ran-
ta**

**us
ti**



Neptune



Nep-
ta



tune
ta