

# Catalog of the Solar System

(from *Journey Through the Universe*, a NASA MESSENGER lesson plan)

## Materials

- Scissors
- Pencils
- Paper
- Crayons or markers
- Research materials
- Construction paper
- Glue

***Safety Concerns: Scissors. Discuss safe and proper use of scissors.***

## Procedure

1. Start by making a "Gatefold Science Report."
2. Write your name in the upper right hand corner of the cover.
3. You will need to create a cover. It must contain a ***creative*** title for your catalog.
4. Using the information in your text book, write a brief explanation about how the Solar System was formed. Write it on the ***inside*** of the left-hand "gate."
5. On the inside of the right-hand "gate", write three paragraphs explaining which planet is your "favorite" and list five interesting facts about that planet.
5. You will need to research the different parts of the Solar System:

Sun  
Mercury  
Venus  
Earth  
Mars  
Asteroids (including the dwarf planet Ceres)  
Jupiter  
Saturn

Uranus  
Neptune  
Plutoids (Pluto & Eris)  
Comets  
Meteoroids/Meteors/Meteorites

6. One page in your catalog should be dedicated to each part. Each page should contain the following:

Name  
Description  
Diameter  
Composition  
General location in the Solar System  
Distance from Sun  
Ranking (if planet) (largest - 1, smallest - 8, etc.)  
Information about the planet's or plutoid's moon(s)  
A picture (your picture *must* be hand drawn and appropriately colored)  
Can a person live on the part (how much would they weigh, can they breathe the atmosphere, is it too hot or cold, etc.)  
Spacecraft that have visited the planet, dwarf planet, comets, etc.

7. Using your information, create a catalog that is full of accurate information, as well as neat and creative.



# *A Gatefold Science Report*

## **Materials**

- ❖ Sheet of construction paper
- ❖ Stapler
- ❖ Pencil
- ❖ Marker, crayons, and colored pencils

## **Procedure**

1. Illustrate the examples on the form based on your instructions.
2. Fold both ends of the construction paper into the center. This is called the gatefold.
3. Staple the report form to the inside of the folder in the center area. If you need more room, add a second sheet of paper below the first one. Paste the picture forms on the inside two flaps.
4. Create a frond cover the lists the author and title. Decorate it with a picture that illustrates the topic.

***NOTE: The illustration is an example. Follow your instructions.***



