

Solar System Terminology

Goal: Students will learn to understand how ancient civilizations—their religion and language—have influenced the terminology of the solar system.

Objective: Students will learn the names of the planets and their major satellites. Students will become familiar with looking up words of various declensions in a Latin-English dictionary.

Materials needed: Solar system worksheet, Latin-English dictionary, map of solar system (if possible).

Preparation (before class): Photocopy a solar system terminology worksheet for each student. Students should keep this in their Latin folder/binder. They will use it once during each class day for the course of the study.

Teacher Instruction (in class): The following should happen once each day for the course of the unit:

1. When class begins, ask students to produce their solar system worksheet.
2. Give students five minutes to look up the name on the list (begin with *So/* and proceed down).
3. Discuss the origin of the name of the planet, satellite, etc. that it describes.

Additional Resources:

Coloring Sheets

<http://www.coloringcastle.com/pdfs/space/planets01.pdf>

<http://www.coloringcastle.com/pdfs/space/solarsystem01.pdf>

Resource: <http://www.nineplanets.org/>

Follow Up: This is a great study to hold concurrently with a unit on the solar system in their science or natural history class. It also serves as a great precursor to a solar system project. Ask students to select one of

these items as the subject for an oral report. Require them to include what they have learned from this Latin study in that project.

Nomen: _____

Solar System

Planet / Moon	roman or greek deity	interesting fact
Sol		
Luna		
Mercury <i>(Mercurius)</i> satellites (0)		
Venus satellites (0)		
Mars satellites (2)		
Deimos		
Phobos		
Jupiter <i>(Iuppiter)</i> satellites (16+)		
Amalthea		
Io		

Europa		
Ganymede		
Callisto		
Leda		
Pasiphae		
Saturn (<i>Saturnus</i>) satellites (18+)		
Pan		
Atlas		
Janus (<i>Ianus</i>)		
Rhea		
Titan		

Iapetus		
Uranus satellites (27)		
Neptune <i>(Neptunus)</i> satellites (13)		
Galatea		
Proteus		
Triton		
Nereid		
Pluto satellites (1)		
Charon		

Solar System

Planet or Satellite	roman or greek deity	interesting fact
Sol	sun god; later called Apollo, son of Jupiter	
Luna	moon goddess; later called Diana, twin sister of Apollo	
Mercury (<i>Mercurius</i>) satellites (0)	god of trade, profit, merchants and travelers	
Venus satellites (0)	goddess of love and beauty; born from the sea	
Mars satellites (2)	god of war; son of Jupiter	
Deimos	greek god of panic; son of Mars and Venus	
Phobos	greek god of fear; son of Mars and Venus	
Jupiter (<i>Iuppiter</i>) satellites (16+)	king of gods, god of sky	
Amalthea	nymph who nursed Jupiter as an infant with goat's milk	
Io	maiden loved by Jupiter and transformed into a heifer to hide her from Juno	
Europa	Phoenician princess kidnapped by Jupiter in the form of a white bull; Mother of King Minos of Crete	
Ganymede	son of Tros, first king of Troy. Jupiter brought him to Mt. Olympus to be the cup-bearer of the gods.	
Callisto	Nymph loved by Jupiter. She was changed into a bear and became Ursa Maior (big dipper).	

Leda	Queen of Sparta, mother of Helen of Troy and the twins Castor & Pollux.	
Pasiphae	Wife of King Minos, mother of minotaur	
Saturn (<i>Saturnus</i>) satellites (18+)	god of agriculture, father of Jupiter, Juno, Ceres, Neptune, and Pluto	
Pan	god of woods, fields, flocks; human torso with goat's legs, horns, and ears	
Atlas	Titan who carried the sky on his shoulders	
Janus (<i>Ianus</i>)	god of gates and doorways; seen with two faces looking in opposite directions	
Rhea	sister and wife of Saturn	
Titan	Family of giants, children of Uranus and Gaia	
Iapetus	Titan, son of Uranus, father of Prometheus and Atlas	
Uranus satellites (27)	Ancient greek deity of heavens; Satellites all named for characters in Shakespeare's plays	
Neptune (<i>Neptunus</i>) satellites (13)	god of sea and earthquakes	
Galatea	Nereid loved by the Cyclops Polyphemus (son of Neptune)	
Proteus	sea god who could change shape	
Triton	Son of Neptune and Amphitrite who blows through a shell to calm the seas. Head and torso of man, tail of a fish	
Nereid	One of 50 daughters of Nereus, son of Oceanus, god of ocean waters	
Pluto	god of underworld, brother of Jupiter and Neptune	

satellites (1)		
Charon	Ferried dead souls across the River Styx	

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