Astronomy Unit Book, Video, Internet Resource Suggestions

*The number following the author’s name is how many copies of each book are in the JMRL Library. Enjoy!*

*Easy Reading Books:*

1. Shooting Stars by Franklyn M. Branley (6)

This book has great pictures and good information for the beginning reader. It goes

over shooting stars, meteoroids, and even includes a very interesting story about a lady in

Alabama that was hit by a meteorite that came through her ceiling!

2. What Makes Day and Night by Franklyn M. Branley (8)

This early reading book has good pictures to show the rotation of the earth and how the sun shines on different parts of the earth as it turns. Excellent

3. The Reasons For Seasons by Gail Gibbons (8)

This is a very colorful book with great explanation of what causes seasons.

4. The Sun Our Nearest Star by Franklyn M. Branley (7)

Did you know that the sun is actually a star? The author will explain what the sun is made of, how hot it is, how far away it is and much more!

5. Journey into a Black Hole by Franklyn M. Branley (8)

Stars seem to last forever, but they actually don’t. They are born and they die.

What is a black hole? Some stars become black holes when they die.

5. The Sky is Full of Stars by Franklyn M. Branley (5)

Focuses on some basic constellations and how to find them.

6. Eclipse: Darkness in Daytime by Franklyn M. Branley (4)

This author uses simple language with clear demonstrations to explain how an eclipse occurs.

*Step-up readers followed by more in depth reading:*

7. Earth: Our Planet in Space by Seymour Simon (9)

This book contains good black and white pictures of earth. This author shows how our days, nights, seasons and

topography come about as a result of Earth’s place in space.

8. Stars by Seymour Simon (3)

Focuses on the variety of stars with great pictures and explanation.

9. A New True Book (Earth) by Dennis B. Fradin (7)

This is a typical new true book that is filled with great pictures and information. Information includes the sun, the earth, and the moon.

10. A New True Book (Astronomy) by Dennis Fradin (4)

Information includes the sky, stars, constellations, milky way and other galaxies, the universe, the solar system, space travel, and astronomers.

11. I Can Be an Astronomer by Paul P. Sipiera (6)

This author takes a look at the job of an astronomer. How can you become an astronomer? You would need to study a lot of mathematics and physics!

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12. Do Stars Have Points? By Melvin and Gilda Berger (8)

This is a book in the Scholastic question and answer series. Will the sun ever stop shining? How hot is the sun? Which star is closest to Earth? How do astronomers take a star’s temperature? These are some of the interesting questions you will find along with their answers in this title. The question and answer style of this book will interest students who are curious about astronomy topics!

13. The Planets in Our Solar System by Franklyn M. Branley (3)

This title is a great introduction to our solar system. Colorful pictures

14. The Mystery of Mars by Sally Ride and Tam O’Shaughnessy (8)

With so much interest today in visiting Mars, the 1997 trip by NASA’s Pathfinder gave information as to what astronaut’s can expect to find on the surface of Mars.

Very good photography and information.

This is a little more in depth than the earlier listed books.

15. Our Solar System by Seymour Simon (7)

Another great informational read from Seymour Simon!

16. Stars and Planets by David H. Levy (8)

This is a larger book that would serve as a great reference title. How did the universe begin? Which planet is lie a boiling cauldron? Why does the tail of a

comet trail through space? How do the planets stay in orbit around the sun? Beautiful, large photographs really bring the concepts alive.

17. Venus by Seymour Simon (8)

Did you know that Venus is called Earth’s sister planet because they are about

the same size? This book contains 20 dramatic, full-color photos!

18. Mars by Seymour Simon (3)

Clear, easy to read, full of information and pictures…… Mars appears so bright

because it is closer to us than any other planet except Venus.

19. The Sun by Seymour Simon (2)

The importance of the sun to all life on earth is stressed in this excellent informational book.

20. Ja nice V anCl ea ve’s Solar Syst em (10)

How is a comet like a dirty snowball? Does a planet’s distance from the sun affect its temperature? How can the Moon block the sun’s light? For the student

who would like to continue on with their astronomy studies, this is one of VanCleave’s

books that is full of science project ideas.

21. Follow the Drinking Gourd by Jeanette Winter (4)

By following directions in a song taught them by a sailor and watching the night sky, runaway slaves journey along the Underground Railway.

22. Rockets and Satellites (3) by Franklyn M. Branley

Simple text with illustrations explains rockets and satellites and describes their capabilities and functions.

*Just for fun! Some fiction reading with space topics:*

23. Freddy and the Men from Mars (2) by Walter R. Brooks

Just for fun! This is a chapter book that is a favorite of my son Zachary. Freddy

the pig’s sleuthing skills are put to the test by conniving rats and a band of rabbits

masquerading a Martians.

24. I have a Friend (4) by Keiko Narahashi

A small boy tells about his friend who lives with him, who follows him, who sometimes is very tall, but who disappears when the sun goes down-his shadow.

25. Her Seven Brothers (6) by Paul Goble

Retells the Cheyenne legend in which a girl and her seven chosen brothers become

the Big Dipper.

26. Where does the Sun Go at Night? (2) By Mirra Ginsburg

Every night the sun goes to the house of his grandma, the deep blue sky, is tucked

in bed by his grandpa, the wind, and is awakened the following day by the morning.

*Video suggestions:*

1. Space Science for Children, All About the Planets (23 minutes long)

Schlessinger media/ What is a planet? Do Planets move? Each planet is introduced

in order from the sun in this very informative and interesting video. It is an excellent video for all elementary ages.

2. Space Science for Children, All About Stars (23 minutes long)

Schlessinger media/ How many stars are there? Did you know that there are more stars than there are grains of sand on all of the beaches on earth? Why does the sun look different than other stars? What causes the sun to be so bright? The concept of hydrogen atoms bonding with hydrogen atoms to form helium is introduced. How do you find the North Star? Where is the Big Dipper and the Little Dipper? It is an excellent video for all elementary ages.

3. Space Science for Children, All About the Moon (23 minutes long)

Schlessinger media/What are phases of the moon? What causes moon craters? When did the first two astronauts walk on the moon? Why wouldn’t the flag blow in the breeze on the moon? What is Galileo known for? This is an excellent video for all elementary ages.

4. Space Science for Children, All About the Earth (23 minutes long)

Is the earth moving? What is the earth made of? What causes seasons? Why does life survive on Earth, but no other planets? Interesting directions are given for making a biosphere. This is an excellent video for all elementary ages.

5. Astronomy 101 (approximately 25 minutes long)

This is a well done video which is done by a girl that is about 10 and her mom. They stress the fact that they are just ordinary people with an interest in learning about the constellations and solar system. They locate things in the night sky with their telescope and then you also get to have a look! There is a good explanation of the two types of telescopes and how they work. Also included are reference book suggestions as well as information on how to connect with Astronomy Clubs.

\*\*The only thing that I have to say negative is that the girl calls her brother a

‘blockhead’ at the start of the movie and she calls him ‘fossil breath’.

6. Space Science for Children, All About the Sun (23 minutes long)

Children will gain an understanding of this nearby star, the sun. Kids will discover how the sun provides us with life-giving light and heat, how it’s responsible for our seasons and weather and why it’s the primary source of energy for the earth.

Very well done.

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*Website suggestions for Astronomy--*

[www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com)

username: risthailand

password: Bangkok

Titles for astronomy: Solar System, Asteroids, Constellations, black holes, dark matter, earth, eclipse, Galaxies,

Life cycle of stars, Jupiter, mars, international space station, exoplanets, & many more!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gr7ShbG231U>

All about Mars: Astronomy and Space for kids—Free School video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RubnGwhcT6E>

The Milky Way for Children, Galaxies and Space: Astronomy for kids—Free School Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDhapt7nw4A>

The planet Earth: Astronomy and space for kids—Free School Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkW54j82e9U>

All About the Sun for kids: Astronomy and Space for children---Free School Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd6nLM2QlWw>

Exploring our solar system: Planets and space for kids—free school video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWUsfud9PzM>

The planet Mercury: Astronomy and Space for kids—free school video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQErMYDfw0Y>

All about comets for kids: Astronomy and space for children—free school video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeDth-ii064>

Stargazing and Astronomy for kids: Our solar system

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybDX-v1XkSA>

Astronomy for kids, Earthlike planets, outer space, telescope—introduction to astronomer Geoff Marcy who has discovered

more planets than anyone else.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mVRc80vhhQ>

5 “impossible” things that can happen on other planets

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YONrbl6xLIM&list=PLp4ycSqWsK54VAGg6-WIsGQS0tUKjjZit>

Mr. Parr song “Earth’s orbit song”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQfJ7j2UGGk>

Mr. Parr song “Planets around a star song”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZC7mocf1Q4&list=PLB21EC36900471A4A>

Mr. Parr song “Layers of the sun”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQPyNY2WIdw>

Mr. Parr song “Atmosphere song”