

Planet Earth in Space

Activities for first and second class

- Sun as a source of heat ~ Go out side on a sunny day and get the children to describe what they can feel on their skin, discuss what may happen on a sunny day to their skin or perhaps what may have happened to them on holidays i.e. sunburn, What caused the sunburn?
- Sun as a source of heat ~ Leave materials like ice cream, butter, ice cube in direct sunlight, predict, observe and record what happens. Contrast the feeling of black and white paper left in the sun. Discuss why we use picnic boxes.
- Sun as a source of Light (Relate to work on Light in Science) e.g. Making shadows
 - Darken the classroom and switch on a torch, pointing it straight at a wall. Note that the beam of light travels in a straight line.
 - Now place an object such as your hand in front of the light, 'What happens?' A shadow is made. A shadow is a dark area where light cannot reach
 - Explore how we can change the shape of the shadow i.e. change the object in front of the light.
- Sun as a source of Light ~ Shadows outside
 - Bring the class out on a sunny day to the school yard or other paved area.
 - Standing randomly around the yard, tell the children to freeze and ask them to note what they can observe actually on the yard, shadows should be one of many suggestions!
 - Relate to class work, 'what did we use to make shadows in the classroom?' and ask the children, 'What is our source of light today instead of the torch?' Also ask the children why some people have shadows and some people do not. i.e. object must block light therefore sun must be behind you.

- Putting the children in pairs, have one child stand so as to create a shadow and have the other child firstly, trace around the standing child's feet and then record the shadow created using chalk
- Get the child who recorded to now stand in the traced shoes, 'Is the shadow the same? Why?
- Leaving the children in pairs get them to form two shadows, give instructions so as the shadows do different tasks e.g. Make your shadows shake hands etc
- To extend the activity the same activity can be done at different times of the day and get the children to note the difference in their shadows i.e. sometimes longer/shorter, moved positions.
- The spherical nature of the earth ~ having read the children the story, 'Brian Baby' ask the children to describe what they think the earth must look like from space.
 - Get the children to record their thoughts pictorially
 - Show children actual images of the earth, the moon and the sun from space. [see suggested web-sites below]
 - Show the children a ball and a circular disc cut from card. Ask them which they think best represents the earth. Introduce the word spherical and relate this to how our world is represented with a globe.(will have introduced the globe as a model of our world in Infant graphicacy work)
- Make spherical models of the earth using balloons and papier mâché. Painting to differentiate between land and water.