



Writing About the Solar System

Writing helps kids process and solidify new knowledge and gives them an opportunity to use new vocabulary and concepts. Offer one or more of these prompts or questions to get your Space Rangers writing. Look at your list of solar system words for inspiration.

Inspired by music

In the early 20th century, composer Gustav Holst wrote a seven-part suite for an orchestra called *The Planets*. Each part was inspired by and named after one of the seven planets in our solar system and their astrological character:

- Mars, the Bringer of War
- Venus, the Bringer of Peace
- Mercury, the Winged Messenger
- Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity
- Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age
- Uranus, the Magician
- Neptune, The Mystic

Listen!

Holst's *The Planets*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsic2Z2e2xs&t=2399s>

'The Planets' at 100: A Listener's Guide to Holst's Solar System (NPR):

<https://www.npr.org/sections/deceptivecadence/2018/09/28/652700640/the-planets-at-100-a-listener-s-guide-to-holst-s-solar-system>

Gustav Holst's 'The Planets': a guide (Classic FM): <https://www.classicfm.com/composers/holst/pictures/holsts-planets-guide/>

Get kids thinking

Talk about a planet and what we know about it. Ask the kids to listen to a portion of the piece about that planet and imagine that they ARE the planet. Does the music suit them? How do they feel when they hear the music? What is the planet thinking or what is happening on or to the planet as the music is playing?