

XO, Exoplanet

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Synopsis: When Jupiter notices a planet circling a far star, he enlists the other planets in our solar system to send a letter, but soon there is a disagreement on which, exactly, is the exoplanet.

Suggested Reading Date: National Astronomy Day – April 16th; Space Day – 1st Friday in May; International Day of Planetariums – 2nd Sunday in March

Activity Descriptions:

- Learn more about Exoplanets at: <https://www.sciencebuddies.org/projects-lessons-activities/exoplanets?msclkid=3861fc7cd0ab11ecb0c486657c218902> or <https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/?msclkid=38619a53d0ab11eca6f7b1c3135faa15>
- Learn more about the planets in our solar system: <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/menu/solar-system/> (NASA Site) or Planets For Kids: <https://www.planetsforkids.org/>
- Discuss perspectives & how often our misunderstandings come from not understanding how other people see things. Read books suggested below about perspective. Teach using “I Statements.” For more ideas: <https://www.wholechildcounseling.com/post/perspective-taking-the-social-skill-you-want-to-be-teaching-kids?msclkid=b9cb808dd0af11ecb999493427c3e60a>
- Write a letter to planets or exoplanets about why students would want to visit there.
- Make a physical model of the planets out of Styrofoam balls or other materials.

Related Websites:

- Author’s Website: <http://www.deborahunderwoodbooks.com/>
- Illustrator’s Website: <http://www.studiolacera.com/>
- Video Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/555867296>
- Teaching tips from Hachette: <https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/PR5888-XO-Exoplanet-Teaching-Tips-final.pdf>

Text to Text Connections:

Life on Mars by Jon Agee

The Darkest Dark by Chris Hadfield

The Wall in the Middle of the Book by Jon Agee

Hey, Little Ant by Phillip M. Hoose

Alfie: The Turtle That Disappeared by Thyra Heder

The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt

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