

Let's Meet Saturn!

A fun 45-minute trip to the most beautiful planet — Saturn, the gas giant with the most amazing rings in the solar system.

Lesson at a Glance

LESSON	Let's Meet Saturn!
AGE GROUP	Ages 5-12 (with tips for adapting younger and older)
TIME	45 minutes
SUBJECT	Science / Astronomy
MATERIALS	Saturn PowerPoint, projector or whiteboard, paper plates, scissors, crayons or coloured pencils, optional: ribbon or string for ring detail

What Will Students Learn?

By the end of this lesson, your class will be able to:

- Name Saturn as the sixth planet from the Sun and the second-biggest planet.
- Describe Saturn's famous rings — what they're made of and how big they are.
- Explain that Saturn could float in water (because it's lighter than water!).
- Recognise the strange hexagon-shaped storm at Saturn's north pole.

Warm-Up: Spark Curiosity (5 min)

Get the class excited by asking: "Which planet do you think is the most beautiful?" Let a few hands shoot up. Then drop the hook:

Try this!

Hold up a small object (a marble, a coin, a paper plate) and slowly add a circle around it with your finger. Tell the class: "There's ONE planet in our solar system with rings so big and bright you can see them through a small telescope. Today we're going to meet it!"

Then say: "Welcome to Saturn — the planet with the world's most famous accessory!"

Main Lesson: The Saturn PowerPoint (15 min)

Open the Saturn_For_Kids.pptx slide deck and walk through it together. Don't just read the slides — pause, ask questions, let kids react.

Slides to slow down on:

- Slide 3 (Saturn at a Glance) — 62 moons! Plus a year that takes 29 EARTH years.
- Slide 4 (Saturn's Amazing Rings) — Made of ice and dust, 175,000 miles wide, but only 30 feet thick! Pause for the size shock.
- Slide 5 (Saturn Could FLOAT!) — The mind-bender. Saturn is so light it would float in a giant bathtub. Watch the class try to wrap their heads around this.
- Slide 6 (The Mysterious Hexagon) — A six-sided storm at the north pole? Show the actual hexagon shape and ask: "How does a storm get six perfect sides?"
- Slide 12 (Quiz Time!) — Save this for the wrap-up at the end of the lesson.

Teacher tip

Don't feel you need to read every word on every slide. Pick the bits that get the loudest reactions and let the class drive the energy.

Activity: Build a Paper-Plate Saturn (20 min)

Each kid makes their own Saturn complete with rings — a classic craft that brings the planet to life.

Each kid gets a paper plate. They:

- Cut a smaller paper plate (or circle) for Saturn's body — colour it pale gold and tan.
- Cut a hole in the centre of the bigger plate, large enough for the smaller one to slip through (like a halo).
- Decorate the rings — multiple bands of cream, gold, and tan colours.
- Push the smaller plate through the bigger one so it looks like Saturn with rings!

Around the rings, label:

- "Made of ICE and DUST"
- "My rings are ___ miles wide!" (175,000)
- "I have ___ moons." (62)

Adapt for younger kids (ages 5-7)

Skip the cutting — just give them one paper plate to colour Saturn-style, then draw rings around the outside with crayons.

Challenge older kids (ages 10-12)

Research one of Saturn's moons — Titan (with methane lakes) or Enceladus (with hidden ocean). Have them add the moon to their Saturn craft and write 3 facts.

Wrap-Up: Quiz Time! (5 min)

Bring everyone back together and run through the quiz slide from the PowerPoint as a group. Encourage shouting out answers — make it celebratory! End by asking:

- “What’s the coolest thing you learned about Saturn today?”
- “If you could send one message to Saturn, what would you say?”

Quick Lesson Flow

TIME	SEGMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
5 min	Warm-up	Spark curiosity with a fun question and a quick demo.
15 min	Main lesson	Walk through the Saturn PowerPoint, slide by slide.
20 min	Activity	Hands-on: build a Paper-Plate Saturn.
5 min	Wrap-up & quiz	Run through the quiz slide together and celebrate what they learned!

Discussion Questions (use any time)

- Saturn could float in water. What does that tell us about what it’s made of?
- How could a storm get a hexagon shape? What does that tell us about Saturn’s weather?
- Saturn’s rings are made of billions of pieces of ice and rock. How do you think they got there?
- If Saturn’s rings are so flat, why can we see them from Earth?

Extension Ideas

- Coloring page (great for early finishers or homework — see the Saturn resource page).
- Math link: A year on Saturn is 29 Earth years. How old would you be in Saturn years?
- Writing prompt: Imagine you’re standing on a tiny piece of Saturn’s rings. Describe what you see.
- Class display: Hang all the paper-plate Saturns from the ceiling — instant solar system!

What You’ll Need

- Saturn_For_Kids.pptx (download from the Saturn resource page)
- Projector or whiteboard to display the slides

- Paper for the activity (one per student)
- Crayons, coloured pencils, or markers
- Optional demo props (see Warm-Up section)