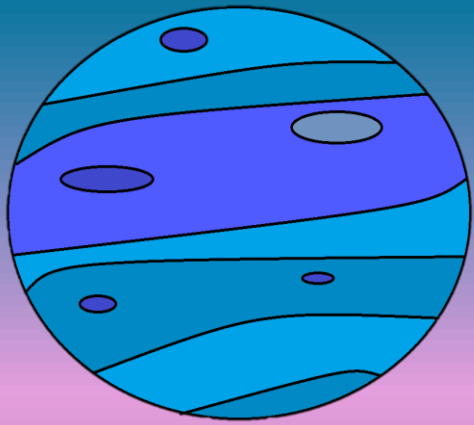
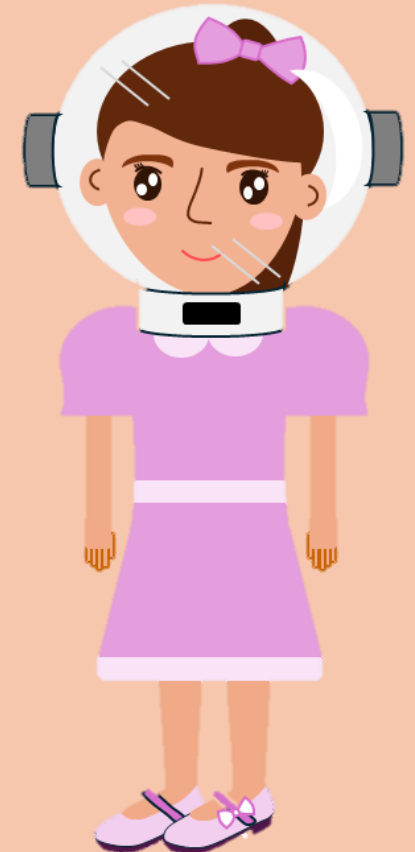




Lek and Luca visit the Planets



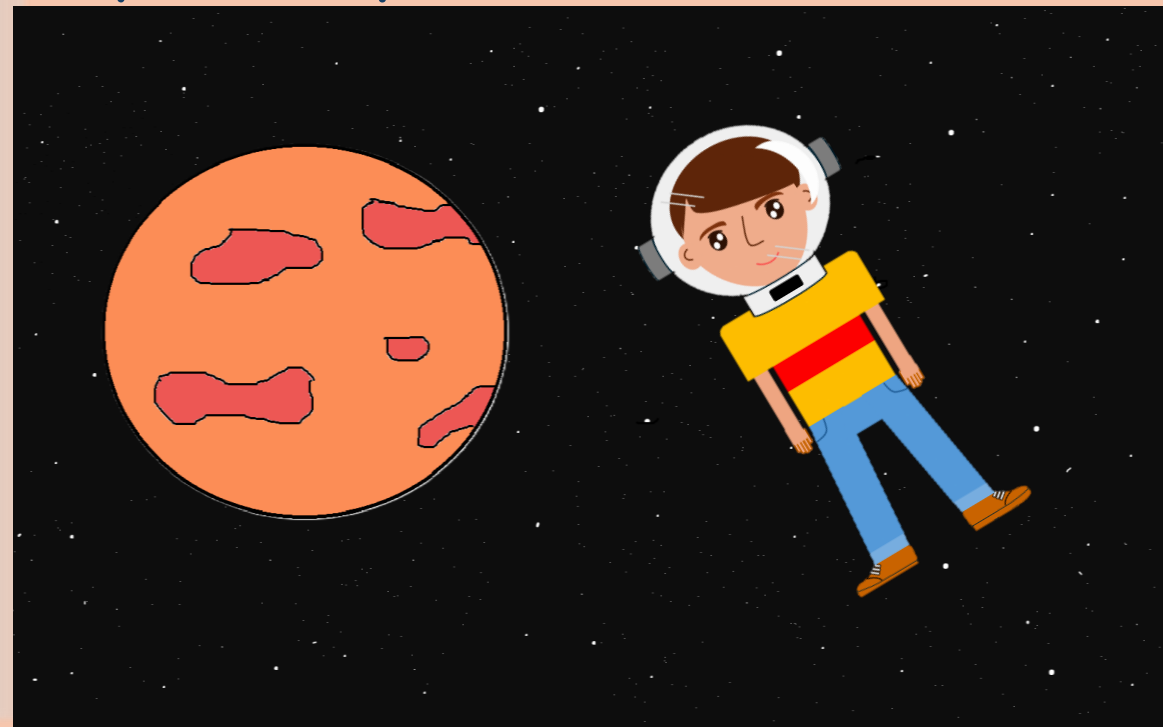
Written by Russell Holton
Illustrated by Russell & Somkamon Holton

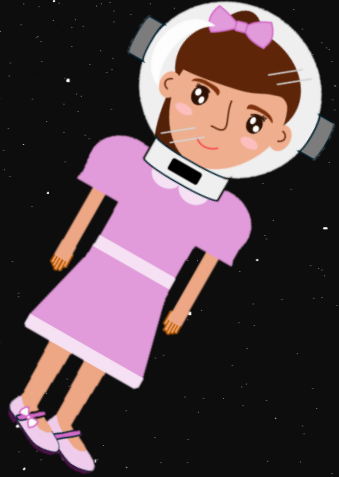


Lek and Luca were talking about the planets in the Solar System, and which planet would be the best one to live on.

"I think Mercury would be a great planet to live on because it's so close to the sun, which means it'll be nice and warm," said Luca.

"Actually, Venus is the hottest planet in the Solar System, but Mercury would be a terrible place to live anyway, because it's very cold at night as well as being far too hot in the day," Lek replied.





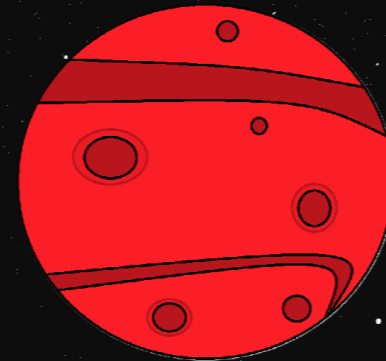
"Well, how about Venus then?" replied Luca.

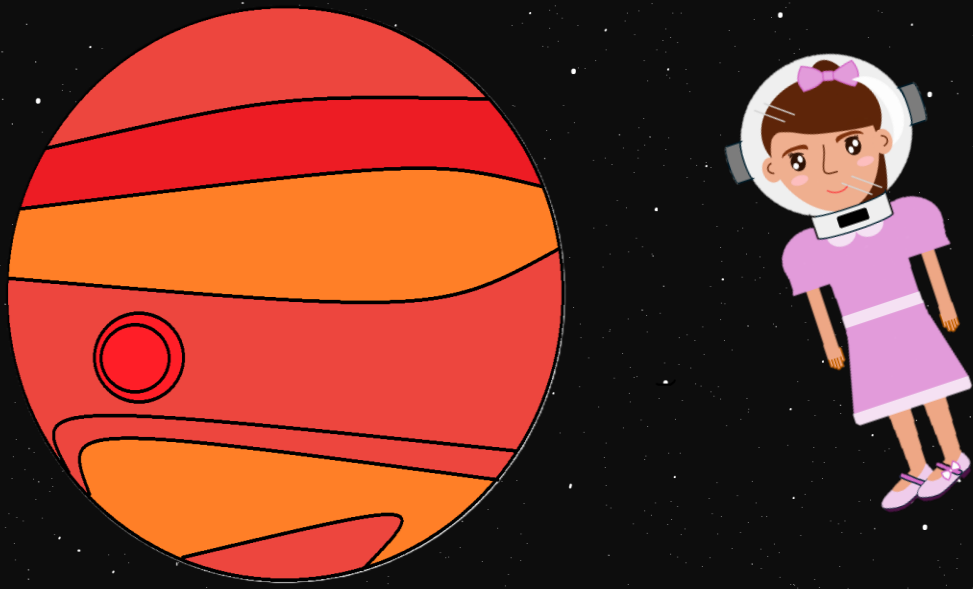
"That's not a great idea," said Lek.

"The temperatures on the surface of Venus can reach 465 degrees Celsius. I think that's hotter than even you can handle Luca."

"How about Mars? It's the closest planet to Earth and there are plenty of stories about Martians?"

"It doesn't seem likely that aliens really live on Mars, and besides, apart from being very red, there's also not much else on Mars, except a very large canyon," replied Lek.





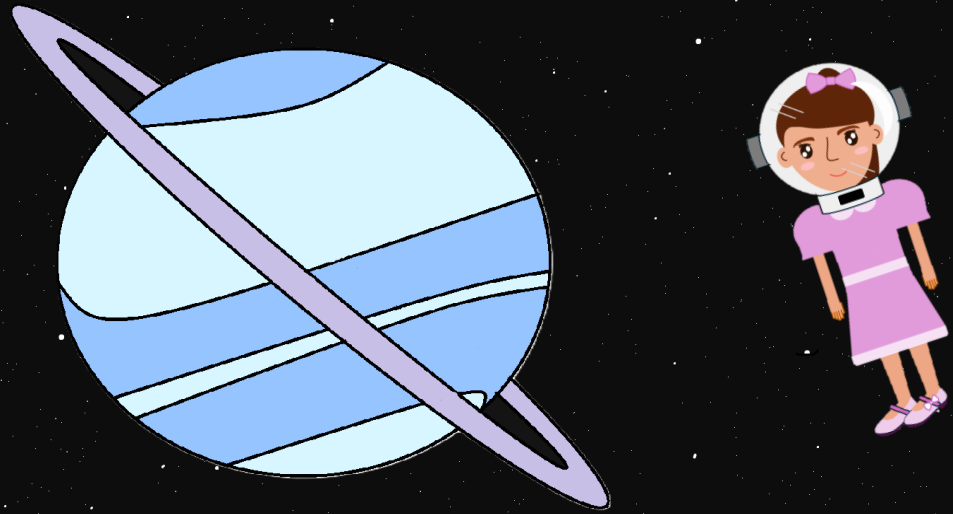
"Saturn looks really pretty because it has lots of rings," said Luca.

"Those rings may look pretty from here, but they're made of ice and dust. I think that would make it quite difficult to even land on Saturn," Lek replied.

"The planet Jupiter is very big so there must be loads of things to do there," said Luca.

"Jupiter is the largest planet in the Solar System but even still, you wouldn't find much to do there. It does have a lot of moons though which would be interesting to explore," said Lek.



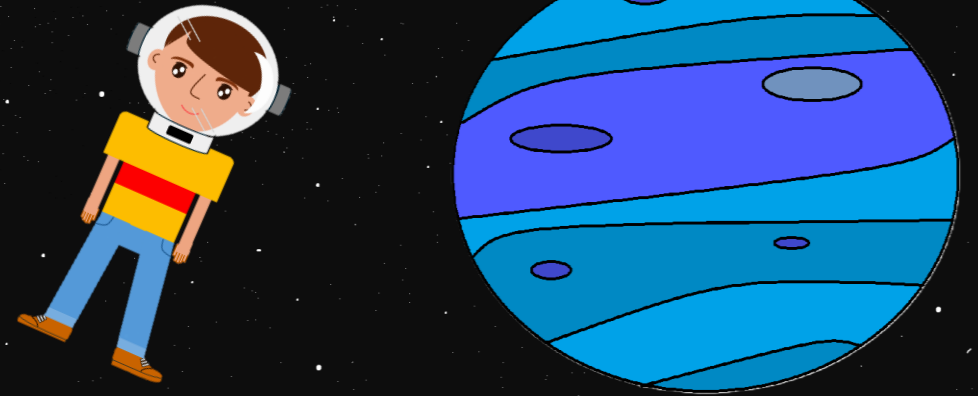


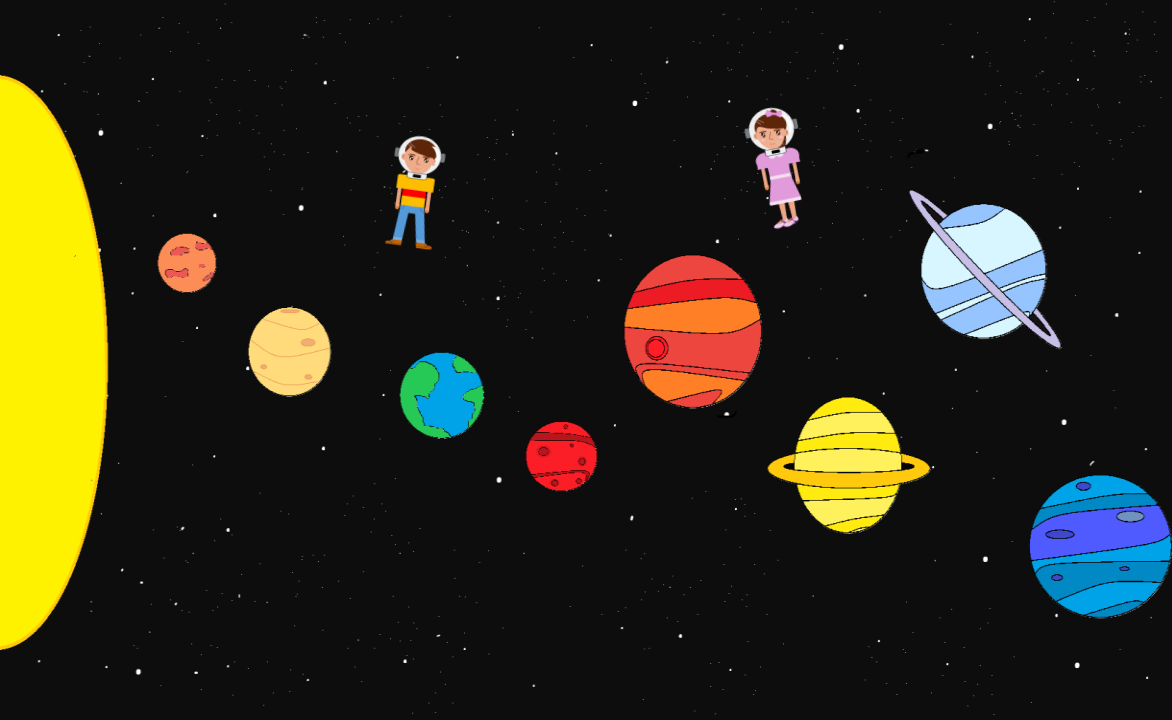
"That just leaves Neptune then," said Luca.

Neptune is a beautiful planet, but it's the farthest planet in the Solar System. It's also the windiest, and it can get super stormy with winds up to 1200 MPH, so hold on to your hat," said Lek.

"Okay then, Uranus has rings, but they look smaller than Saturn's so surely, I could live there?" said Luca.

"Sorry Luca that isn't a good idea. Uranus is the coldest planet in the Solar System with temperatures lower than minus 200 degrees Celsius. Hardly good weather for a holiday," Lek giggled.





Luca sighed. "So, what is the best planet to visit in the Solar System?" he asked.

"Well, I think I have the answer," Lek replied.

"How about our very own planet, Earth. It has beautiful beaches, mountains and forests. It's not too hot or too cold, and you won't need a space suit."

"That sounds just right," Luca replied. "I guess that's why it's so important to take care of our little blue and green planet."



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