Space Object Identification

Objectives
- Students will identify pictures of various celestial objects

Suggested Grade Level
5th-8th

Subject Area
Science

Timeline
One class period

Standards

Earth and Space Science
- Earth in the solar system

Science and Technology
- Abilities of technological design
- Understanding about science and technology

Science in Personal and Social Perspectives
- Science and technology in society

Background
This lesson is a good tool to give students as a pre-knowledge assessment. Students will identify many celestial objects. This will give the teacher a better understanding of the level of celestial object knowledge each student possesses.

Materials
Space Object Identification worksheet, pencil

Lesson
1. Review with students the difference among planets, stars, galaxies, comets and asteroids. Use vocabulary terms to differentiate among the objects.
   Planet: A large mass of matter that orbits a star.
   Star: A burning ball of gas that emits light.
   Galaxy: A group of stars and solar systems orbiting a central black hole.
   Comet: A small body of rock and ice that orbits the Sun and occasionally shows a coma or tail.
   Asteroid: A small, solid object that orbits the Sun.
2. Hand out the Space Object Identification worksheet.
3. Review with students when finished.

**Extensions**
Have students do research on one of the objects and present it to the class using PowerPoint.

**Evaluation/Assessment**
Grade the Space Object Identification worksheet.

**Resources**
National Science Standards: [http://www.nap.edu/readingroom/books/nses/](http://www.nap.edu/readingroom/books/nses/)

Hubble pictures: [http://hubblesite.org/gallery/](http://hubblesite.org/gallery/)
Space Object Identification

Look at each object. In each blank write $P$ if it is a planet, $S$ if it is a star, $SS$ if it is a solar system, $G$ if it is a galaxy, $A$ if it is an asteroid, or $C$ if it is a comet.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____
15. ____

16. ____

17. ____
Answer Sheet

1. SS
2. A
3. P
4. C
5. G
6. P
7. C
8. S
9. G
10. A
11. P
12. P
13. S
14. G
15. G
16. A
17. C
18. P
19. P
20. G