

Teacher Guide

Cue Sheet

The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System

Thursday, October 1, 2026
10:15am & 12:15pm

Questions to ask students **BEFORE** the performance

- If you were able to travel in space, what would you most look forward to?
- When is working together important? Give some examples.
- What are the planets in our own solar system? Is there a planet you'd like to visit? Why?

Questions to ask students **AFTER** the performance

- Where did the students go in space, and how was that shown in the play?
- If you were to travel to space, what would you need to take with you to stay alive?
- What makes watching a play with performers on a stage different from watching a movie or a TV show?



About the Performance

This new musical adaptation, *The Magic Schoolbus: Lost in the Solar System*, is based on the beloved and bestselling Scholastic Publishing series, *The Magic Schoolbus*. In this adventure, the Magic School Bus kids blast off into space! Their teacher, Ms. Frizzle, takes the kids into space to explore the solar system. But Ms. Frizzle gets separated from the group, and her class must travel through the planets and beyond to rescue her. Will they be able to get everyone back to Earth in one piece? The kids must put rivalries aside to work together or risk getting lost in space forever!

The Magic School Bus began as a book series when the first edition, *The Magic School Bus at the Waterworks*, was published in 1986. The books follow Ms. Frizzle and her class as they take field trips in their school bus. Their trips take them to space, through the water cycle, to prehistoric times, and many other unlikely adventures with the televised cartoon debuting in 1994. Both the books and the television show use scientific facts as the basis for their fictional field trips.



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Vocabulary

asteroid (*A-stir-oid*) - an unevenly shaped, rock-like mass the size of a small house or bigger orbiting in space

calculation (*cal-cue-LAY-shun*) - finding the value of something using mathematics

cooperation (*coh-AH-per-ay-shun*) - working together

gravity (*GRA-vih-tee*) - a force that pulls things towards Earth

Mars (*mahrz*) - the fourth planet from the sun in our solar system

Mercury (*MUR-cyur-ee*) - the first and smallest planet from the sun in our solar system

observation (*ahb-sir-VAY-shun*) - watching and taking notes about an event

orbit (*OHR-biht*) - to circle around another object or position

Planet (*PLAN-uh*) - one of the seven major bodies in our solar system orbiting the sun

planetarium (*plan-uh-TERR-ee-um*) - a museum designed to display images of stars, planets and other elements of our universe

relationship (*ree-LAY-shun-ship*) - the way two or more people behave with and toward one another

solar (*SOH-ler*) - of or about the sun, as in the solar system

universe (*YOU-nih-vers*) - all of the physical elements that we know or assume exists

Venus (*VEE-nuhs*) - The second planet from the Sun in our solar system

weightless (*WAYT-lihs*) - having no or very little weight; being free from gravity and able to float



Additional Resources

Click here to download a study guide for the performance provided by the show.

Interactive PDF
Click here to visit link.

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Beyond the Show

Use these activities before or after the performance to extend the production's themes and concepts into the classroom.

Planet You

Science fiction creators make up worlds all the time, imagining detailed worlds in which other creatures and beings exist. Have your students become science fiction creators by drawing or writing about a planet of their own. Have them share details about the planet, such as the temperature, shape, geography, and ecosystem. Did any students invent new life forms to live on their planets? If so, how do those lifeforms survive?

Weightlessness

When humans travel in space, they are free from gravity. We call that weightlessness. Think of something heavy. In space, you could lift it easily. It did not suddenly lose weight; there's no gravitational pull.

To demonstrate, gather a plastic Solo (or similar) cup, a basin, and water. Punch two holes near the bottom of the cup. Hold the cup over the basin and put water into it. Gravity pulls the water through the holes and into the basin. Ask your students what will happen if you drop the cup with water in it. Will the water continue to pour through the holes? Will water splash out of the top of the cup or stay inside? Once students have chosen their answers, pour water into the cup, then drop it into the basin. Because the experiment occurs quickly, you may want to shoot a video of the cup as it drops.

The water stopped leaking through the holes because of gravity. Since the water and the cup both fell into the basin at the same speed, pulled by the same force of gravity, the water did not need to leak through the holes to reach the basin. It's already falling!

(Adapted from the "What Is Weightlessness" activity by PBS.)

Ride in Style

Ms. Frizzell knows how to convert a bus into a space shuttle. How about your class? Have your students brainstorm ways to make their big yellow school bus the ultimate ride into space. Rocket propulsion? Onboard computers? Ultra-comfy sleeping bunks? Make a list of things they would want on their big yellow space shuttle. Or draw it!