

Upcycled LP Record Solar System

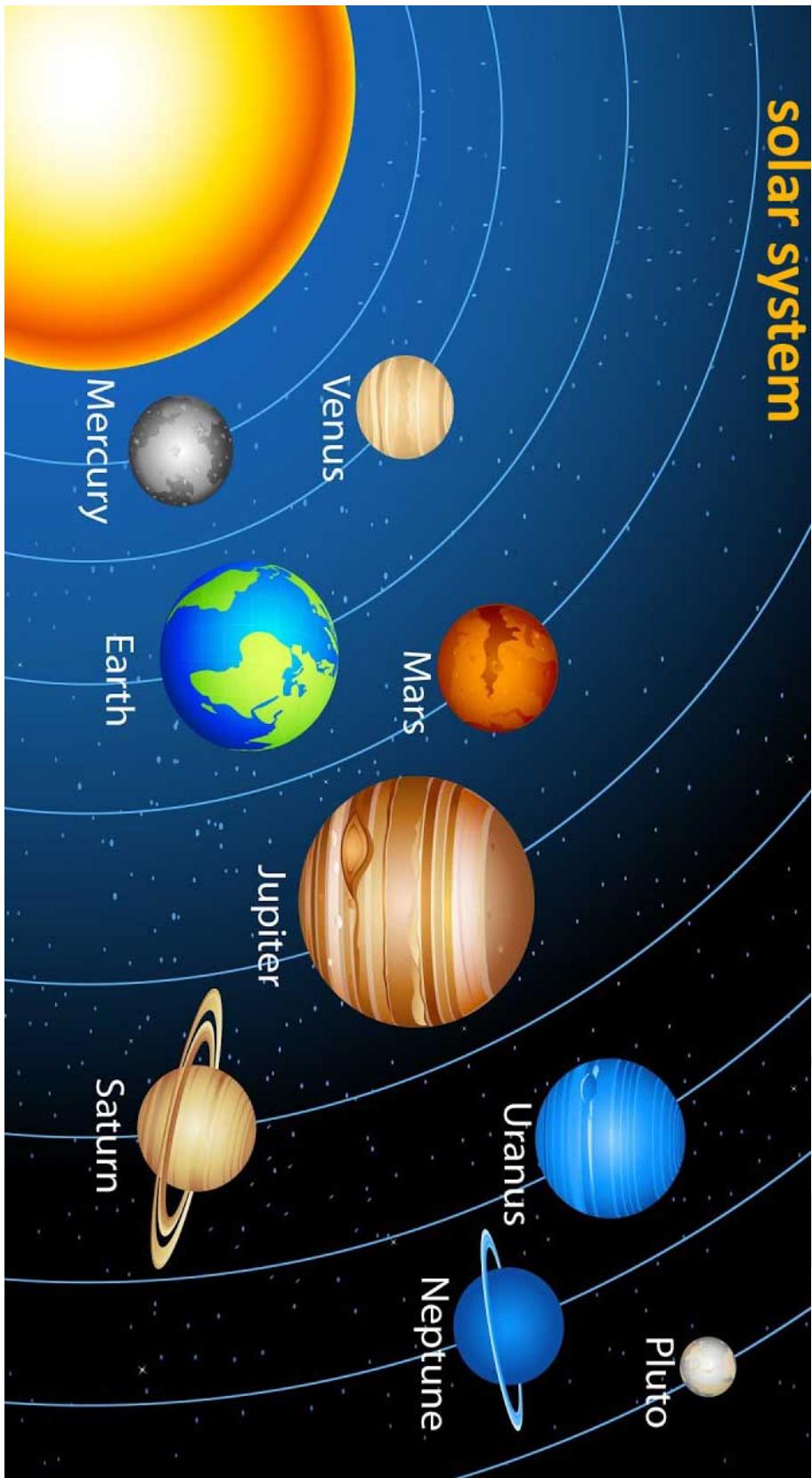
Looking beyond our own planet can give us a greater appreciation for the unique ecosystems and natural resources that support life on Earth. Craft this simple upcycled solar system display using an old LP record and bottle caps to kick off your discussion of our blue planet.

Materials:

One 10" LP Record
 Scissors
 Glue stick
 8 plastic bottle caps
 Printer or Paper and Coloring Utensils
 Yellow construction paper
 Hot glue gun (adult assistance)
 String or ribbon for hanging (~24" long)



1. Make Planets: Either print images of the 8 planets in our solar system (included) or do a little research and draw them. Cut out each planet and glue one to the top of each bottle cap. If you have a variety of bottle caps, you can try to coordinate bottle cap color and size with each planet.
2. Make Sun: Cut out a circle of yellow construction paper large enough to cover the label on the LP record (approximately 3.5 inches). Using a glue stick, glue it on the center of the record. If you plan on hanging your finished solar system, punch out a hole in the center of the sun (where the hole is on the record).
3. Secure the planets: Arrange your planet bottle caps in an outward spiral from the middle (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune). Using the hot glue gun, put a ring around the bottom of each bottle cap and glue it in place. Allow to cool.
4. Label: Cut out labels for each planet and glue them on the corresponding bottle cap or in the space next to it on the record.
5. Hang it: After all the glue has cooled and the planet-caps are secure, loop your string through the center of the record and tie it together, leaving space for hanging. Now your upcycled LP solar system is ready to display!
6. Optional stars: Use glow-in-the-dark or sparkly paint to add tiny dots to your solar system to represent stars. Allow to dry fully.



solar system