



### Program Length

50 minutes (35 minutes without live sky presentation)

### Grades

3-5

### Summary

A jungle adventurer uses a magical camera to take visitors on an exciting safari through the Solar System. The sun, moon, planets, and dwarf planets come to life, taking on unique personalities and describing their own characteristics and eccentricities. Students will learn about the characteristics of planets, as well as the current planetary status of Pluto.

### Format

This program combines live and recorded segments, which, in recent years, has become the Planetarium's most popular format. Recorded professional voice actors are used in conjunction with a live presenter, who will teach the students how to locate visible planets and constellations in the current night sky.

### Concepts Covered

- The types of objects that make up our Solar System
- The differences between rock and gas planets
- The current scientific definition of planet, including:
  - The differences between stars and planets
  - The differences between planets and moons
  - The differences between planets and asteroids
  - The differences between planets and dwarf planets
  - The reasons why Pluto is no longer considered a planet
- That planets, dwarf planets, and stars (like our Sun) are the same shape (spherical)
- The conditions that make Earth just right for life
- The origin and importance of heat and light in our Solar System
- The observed movement of the sun and stars across the sky
- The causes of day and night (Earth's spin)
- The motion of moons around planets, and planets around the Sun (orbit).
- Understanding that new discoveries can change our perceptions
- That observation generates new questions about the world
- That scientific decisions require evidence
- That scientific concepts can be illustrated artistically
- That nature, including the solar system, should be appreciated
- The current night sky; how to locate planets and constellations (live sky presentation only)

## Curriculum Links

This planetarium show is designed to fit into the Curriculum standards of the State of Michigan. The following links are covered:

### I. Constructing New Scientific Knowledge

1. Generate questions about the world based on observation.

### II. Reflecting on Scientific Knowledge

1. Develop an awareness of the need for evidence in making decisions scientifically.
2. Show how science concepts can be illustrated through creative expression such as language arts and fine arts.
4. Develop an awareness of and sensitivity to the natural world.

### III. Using Life Science Knowledge

(LEC) Ecosystems

2. Describe the basic requirements for all living things to maintain their existence.

### V. Using Earth Science Knowledge

(ES) Solar System, Galaxy, and Universe

1. Compare and contrast the characteristics of the sun, moon, and earth.
2. Describe the motion of the earth around the sun and the moon around the earth