Throughout the village, various drawings of the planets have been scattered. Some are easier to find than others. Try to spot them all. Look for the different Astronomical symbols or glyphs that appear on each planet and draw them all in your booklet.

Pick your favourite character and take a selfie with him/her while doing your best impression of this character. Once your hunt is over, go to the Tourist Office to collect a gift and compete in the annual raffle for a chance to win a fun activity at the Observatory.
Our Solar System was formed approximately 4.55 billion years ago. It consists of a star we call the Sun and a set of planets, as well as natural satellites (moons), and numerous asteroids and comets. The planets revolve around the Sun in the same direction.

To begin your trip, take a right as you come out of the Tourist Office. At the bus stop, you will find the Sun.

THE SUN

The Sun doesn’t owe its name to a Roman god, but it does have the last day of the week, Sunday, named after it.

The Sun is our Star but it’s actually quite small compared to other stars. The Sun gives life to the Earth since nearing 5 billons years. The Sun’s inner core can reach up to 15 billons Celsius.

The Sun has provided us with energy for 5 billion years. It is expected to shine for approximately another 5 billion years, before turning into first a white then a black dwarf.

The colour of the Sun never changes. It is white. However, when we see the Sun at sunrise or sunset, when it is low in the sky, it may appear red. That is only because its short wavelength colours are scattered out by the Earth’s thick atmosphere.
Venus gets its name from the Roman Goddess of love and beauty. Aphrodite is its Greek equivalent.

Its astronomical symbol or glyph is the hand-mirror in which the goddess contemplates her image. The fifth day of the week is named after her.

Venus is the 2nd planet from the Sun; it is closest to the Earth and about the same size.

Venus is a rocky planet -one of the 4 telluric planets- with a thick atmosphere which bring about a “greenhouse effect” causing the temperature on its surface to reach 480° Celsius.

It is known as the Shepherd’s Star because it is the third-brightest celestial body in Earth’s sky, after the Sun and Moon.

The thick atmosphere of Venus is composed of 95% carbon dioxide, a little nitrogen (nitrogen is the most abundant gas in the Earth’s atmosphere) and traces of other gases.
Keep going up towards the old village. Look carefully, when you approach the Planetarium.

PLUTO

Its name comes from the Roman god of the Underworld, Hades, is his Greek equivalent.

Pluton is the most well-known dwarf planet of the Solar System. Pluto was believed to be the ninth and furthest planet in the Solar System until 2006 when it was demoted from planet status to dwarf planet because it is too small.

In 1978, a huge satellite was detected. It was named Charon, after the ferryman who carries the dead souls into the Underworld. Charon (1192 km in diameter) is about half the size of Pluto (2284 km in diameter). In fact, because of this, Pluto is often referred to as a double planet, just as the Earth and the Moon.
In front of the Grand Chalet Favre, go up a few steps, and along the church stairs, look carefully for Mercury.

**MERCUARY**

Because Mercury goes the fastest around the Sun, the planet is named after the swift-footed Roman messenger God, Mercury, or Hermes as the Greeks knew him, who is usually shown with wings on his helmet or on his sandals. It is referred to the 2nd day of the week. Its astronomical symbol looks like a winged helmet and in alchemy it is associated with the metal mercury.

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun; it is the smallest and least massive. Mercury’s orbit is so close to the Sun that it is difficult to see from the ground.

A tiny desolate planet with craters like the Moon’s, Mercury is one of the 4 telluric planets. It has no substantial atmosphere and no satellite.
Climb back down to the square and follow the historical path towards Vissoie.

THE MOON

A number of goddesses are associated with the Moon: Diana (Artemis for the Greeks) the goddess of hunting, as well as Selene in Ancient Greece. The first day of the week is named for the Moon and its astronomical symbol is a crescent moon, it is associated with silver in alchemy.

The moon is the Earth’s only natural satellite. Although research is continuing, most scientists agree that the moon is lifeless but large amounts of ice were discovered at both north and south lunar poles within permanently shadowed craters.

The first person to set foot on the Moon was Neil Armstrong on July 21, 1969.

As the Moon revolves around the Earth, it is sometimes exactly between the Earth and the Sun. When this happens, the Sun is hidden by the Moon and no longer illuminates part of the Earth. This phenomenon is called a solar eclipse. When the eclipse is total, it suddenly begins to get dark in the middle of the day. Fortunately, an eclipse only lasts a few minutes.
Go back up, find the fountain south of the church. Here, take a good look around you, Mars isn’t far.

**Mars**

Mars is named after the Roman God of war, Ares in Greek, because of its reddish colour. By the way, it is often called “the Red Planet”.

In alchemy, Mars is associated with the metal iron and its astronomical symbol shows a spear and shield. It corresponds with the 2nd day of the week.

Though it is half the size of the Earth, in many ways, Mars looks a lot like our home. It is the fourth planet from the sun and one of the 4 telluric planets in the Solar System.

Mars has the largest known volcanoes in the Solar System, Olympus Mons, which prove that it was once very geologically active. The available evidence suggests that the planet's period of volcanic activity ended millions of years ago, and its surface is the scene of only minimal activity such as landslides or small lava flows.
Neptune, the god of the Sea for in the Roman mythology, is known as Poseidon in Greek mythology. Its astronomical symbol is a trident.

Under a telescope, Neptune looks like a blue disc which reminds us the bottom of the oceans. Four times larger than the Earth, Neptune is the eighth largest and last planet in our Solar System.

Neptune is an “Ice Giant”. Like Uranus and several exoplanets, it is made only of gas. Neptune's atmosphere is composed of hydrogen, helium and methane, which gives its blue colour.

Neptune cannot be seen to the naked eye and, as Uranus, was discovered only after the telescope invention. Its existence had been discovered through calculation, and not by accident.
Saturn is the sixth planet in the Solar System and the second largest planet after Jupiter, both in size and mass. It gave its name to the sixth day of the week.

Saturn is named after the Roman God of harvest and seasons, known as Cronos in Greek mythology. In alchemy, Saturn is associated with the metal lead, the glyph imitates the scythe of Saturn.

Saturn is one of the so-called giant gas planets, its diameter is about nine and a half times that of the Earth. It has many satellites.

The bright globe of Saturn is surrounded by rings which may be composed of ice.

It is the farthest planet in the Solar System that can be observed with the naked eye. Saturn was discovered during the Renaissance by Galileo.
Climb to the top of the stairs to reach the funicular's departure station and keep your eyes peeled. Uranus is waiting here for you.

Uranus

Uranus is named after the Roman god of heaven, who is Saturn's father and Jupiter's grandfather. He is known as Oranos in Greek mythology.

Its symbol is a combination of the Sun and Mars. In alchemy it is associated with platinum.

The seventh planet from the Sun and the 3rd largest, Uranus was not known in ancient times. It is the first planet discovered with a telescope in modern times, in 1781. Its discovery was late because of its very low brightness.

Uranus is a giant gas planet composed of ice. It has the coldest atmospheric temperature of any planet in the Solar System, around -224° (-371°F). Its blue colour is due to the methane layer that absorbs red light.
Keep following the road in the direction of the Prilett. You’ll find Jupiter at a crossroads.

JUPITER

The largest planet in our Solar System by far is Jupiter, which beats out all the other planets in both mass and volume. Jupiter’s mass is more than 300 times that of the Earth. All told, because of its immense volume, Jupiter could hold all the other planets together.

The Romans fittingly named the planet after their king of gods, Jupiter, known to the Greeks as Zeus. In alchemy, Jupiter is associated with the metal tin. Its symbol looks like a lightning bolt.

Jupiter is the fifth planet in order from the Sun. Visible to the naked eye in the night sky, Jupiter is usually the fourth brightest object in the sky vault, after the Sun, the Moon and Venus.

Jupiter is the first of the “gas giants”, in other words, it is entirely composed of dense layers of gas. It is also the stormiest planet in the Solar System packing winds of up to 600 km an hour. There is a permanent, but ever-changing whirlpool of storms, known as Jupiter’s Great Red Spot which has been observed for the past 350 years. This high-pressure region is three times the size of the Earth.

Galileo was the first person who observed the 4 main moons of Jupiter on January 7, 1610 through a homemade telescope.
THE EARTH

The Earth is the only planet that wasn't named after a Greek or Roman god or goddess because our ancestors did not think of it as a planet and could not imagine it was in the sky.

The Earth is the third closest planet to the Sun. Its astronomical symbol shows a globe bisected by meridian lines into four quarters.

Life on Earth is possible thanks to the ozone layer that blocks part of the Sun's rays. The Earth was formed about 4.55 billion years ago and life appeared less than a billion years later. It is one of the 4 telluric planets.

The Earth’s shape is an oblate spheroid and, as it orbits around the Sun, it turns on its axis, rotating right round in 24h. Planet Earth has been called the "Blue Planet" due to the abundant water on its surface.

The population of the world is now over 7.5 billion people, the vast majority of whom live in the developing world. The world’s population is spread unevenly across the globe with concentrations of large numbers of people living in the same areas, Europe and Asia.
PLACE THE PLANETS IN THE RIGHT ORDER STARTING FROM THE SUN

1. Pluto
2. Mercury
3. Venus
4. Mars
5. Jupiter
6. Saturn
7. Uranus
8. Neptune
9. Earth

Responses
1) This planet is red. What’s its name?
   - Mercury
   - Pluto
   - Mars

2) Is Pluto close or far from the Sun?

3) Which planet is named after the Roman goddess of love?
   - Neptune
   - Venus
   - Mercury

4) Is the Sun a star or a planet?

5) What is the surface temperature of Venus?
   - 15 billion °C
   - 480°C
   - -480°C

6) What year did Neil Armstrong walk on the Moon?
   - 1969
   - 1656
   - 1966

7) When was the planet Uranus discovered?
   - Prehistory
   - Middle Ages
   - Modern Times

8) What are the 4 telluric planets of our Solar System?
CONNECT THE PLANETS
WITH THEIR TATTOO

JUPITER
SATURN
MARS
VENUS
URANUS
NEPTUNE
PLUTO
EARTH
MOON
SUN
MERCURY

The Moon
Pluto
The Sun
Neptune
Uranus
Mars
The Earth
Venus
Mercury

Responses