

Introducing ThePlanetsOnline.com

The Planets Online is a new educational web site that introduces viewers to a broad range of subjects in a unique, innovative, and entertaining way.

The site naturally interweaves information on science, engineering, music, visual design, and technology, making it a showcase for STEAM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) and interdisciplinary connections.

A brief introductory video is available here: <https://youtu.be/NG1tAIL34Nk>

At the core is a simple YouTube video of an orchestra performing 'The Planets' by Gustav Holst with images projected on a screen above. As the music plays the site shows related web pages and comments. Importantly, these comments can be tailored by the viewer to match their interests. For example, they can turn on NASA pages that describe what's on the screen above the orchestra. Viewers who are primarily interested in music can turn off the NASA pages and turn on a commentary by an orchestra conductor.

This innovative design makes a wealth of information available to each viewer through the simple act of watching a YouTube video. The hope is they will be pleasantly surprised as they learn about a wide range of topics, and how they are often inter-related.

For Educators

While intended primarily for the wider public the site includes a number of features specifically for educators. For example, teachers can send students special links that highlight specific features. The following link would be suitable for a music class as it shows a Wikipedia page on the 'Col Legno' violin technique that's used in Mars:

<https://theplanetsonline.com/?commentary=info+music+musiccomp&start=00:00:44>

The following link could be used to send science students to a NASA page on the Martian volcano, 'Olympus Mons'.

<https://theplanetsonline.com/?commentary=science+tech+science-sources+info&start=00:02:20>

For more details on these links please see the Educator's Guide:

<https://theplanetsonline.com/pages/guide.html>

Acknowledgements and Contact Information

The site would not be possible without the wealth of online resources available to the public including Wikipedia.org and NASA.gov, which we gratefully acknowledge.

For further information on the web site please contact Adrian Wyard at 1-800-270-0480 or adrian@adrianwyard.com.