

Peter Max

Pop Art Solar System



Year of 2250, 1996

Meet the Artist

Peter Max

born October 19, 1937

"If I didn't choose art, I would have become an astronomer." -Peter Max



Peter Max is an American pop artist. He was born in Germany in 1937, and his family settled in the US when Peter was 16. His colorful work, which became popular in the 1960's reflects the culture of his time. Art that is inspired by "popular culture" is called **POP Art!** His art began to appear on TV shows, posters, album covers and he even created large murals viewed by millions of people.

Peter Max's passions in both art and astronomy are seen through cosmic elements in his art. This passion for inner and outer space fused and gave rise to his famous *Cosmic '60s* poster collection. He also became fascinated with the Statue of Liberty and created a series of paintings representing it. He said "I wanted to honor this amazing democracy that the Statue of Liberty symbolizes."

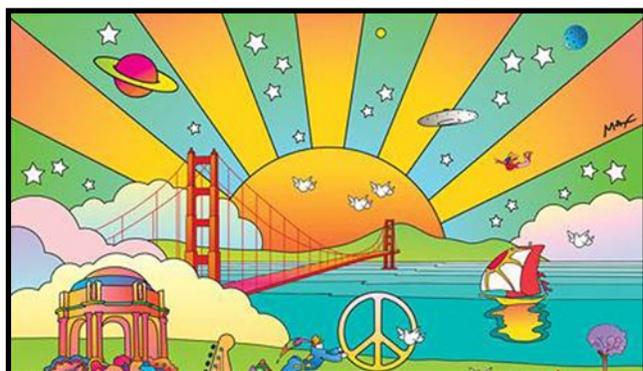
"My life's journey has been an odyssey through time and space, filled with vivid moments, abundant with color, dazzling with sights, and vibrant with euphonic sounds. These moments collectively create my story, not only of who I was but also of who I was to become - an artist living in New York City, where I have been fortunate to reach a global audience with my art and philosophy." - Peter Max

Introduction

When you look at Peter Max's work you can see his love of space and astronomy. That's what we're going to talk about and create today. Let's look at his art and consider why it's called POP Art?

Describe what you see: Objects, shapes, colors, and see if you can tell the stories that Max was trying to tell.

POP art is an art movement that emerged in the United Kingdom and the United States during the mid- to late-1950s. The movement presented a challenge to traditions of fine art by including imagery from popular and mass culture, such as advertising, comic books and mass-produced cultural objects.



"The Official Outside Lands"



"Protect our Home" 2002



"Apollo 11 Walking on the Moon" 1969/1999

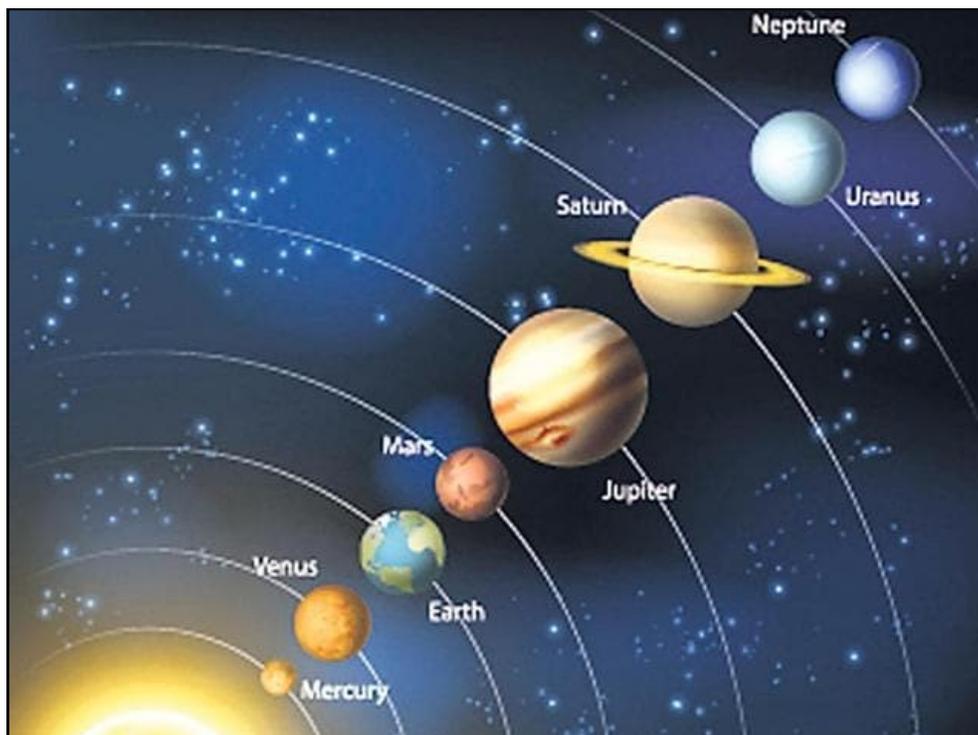
And here is one of his many Statue of Liberty paintings merged with his love of our planet and space. Do you spot another popular American icon in this painting?



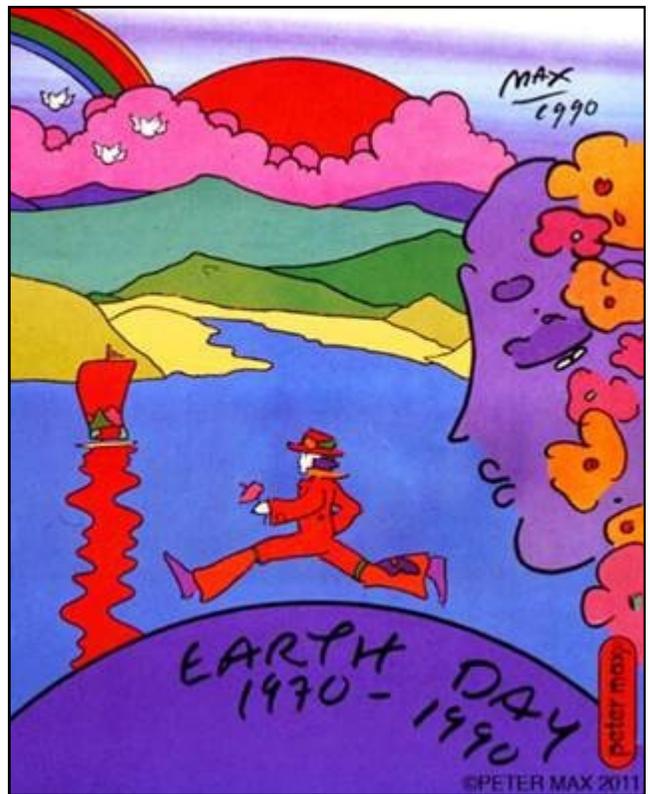
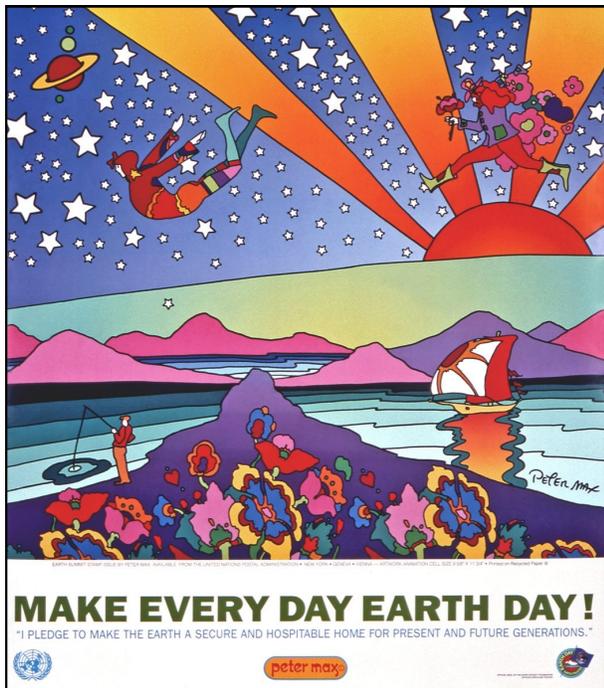
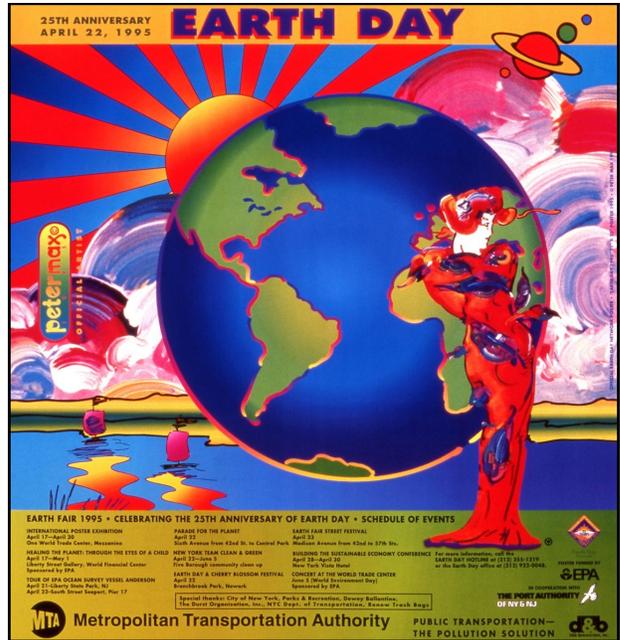
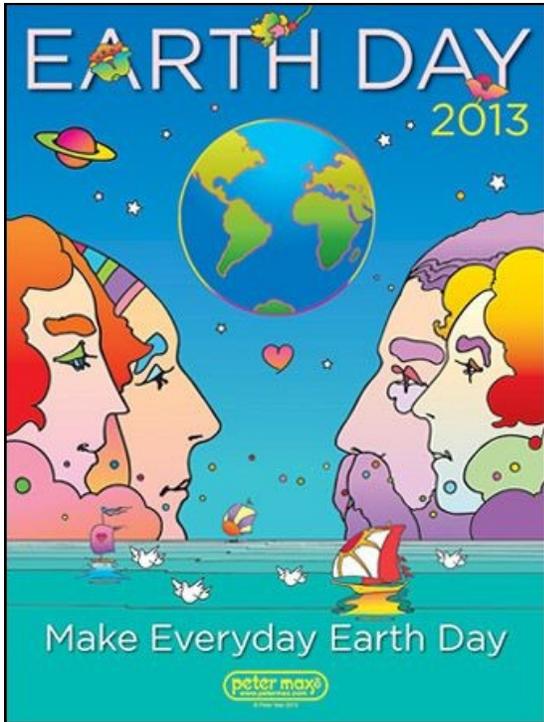
"Statue of Liberty" 2012

Today we will create our own POP art posters that will show what we know about the solar system! You can even make it an Earth Day poster if you'd like!

- **Our solar system formed 4.6 billion years ago.**
- **A solar system includes a star (in our case the Sun) and all objects that orbit around it.**
- **Sun contains 99.86% of all of the solar system's known mass.**
- **There are 8 planets in our solar system.**
- **Neptune was the last planet to be discovered.**
- **Saturn's ring particles are made almost entirely of water ice particles.**
- **Jupiter is the biggest and heaviest planet in our solar system.**
- **Earth is the only known planet that has oceans (as far as we know for now).**

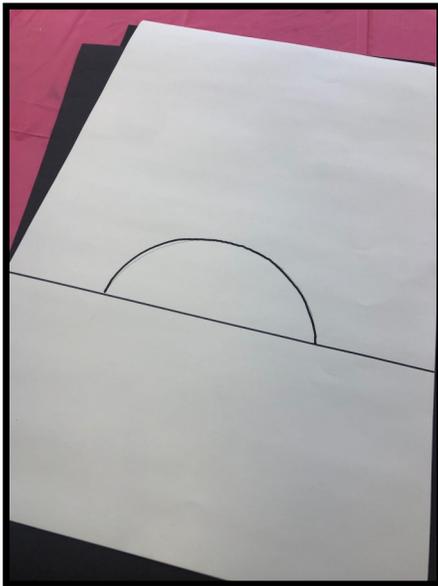


Peter Max Earth Day Posters



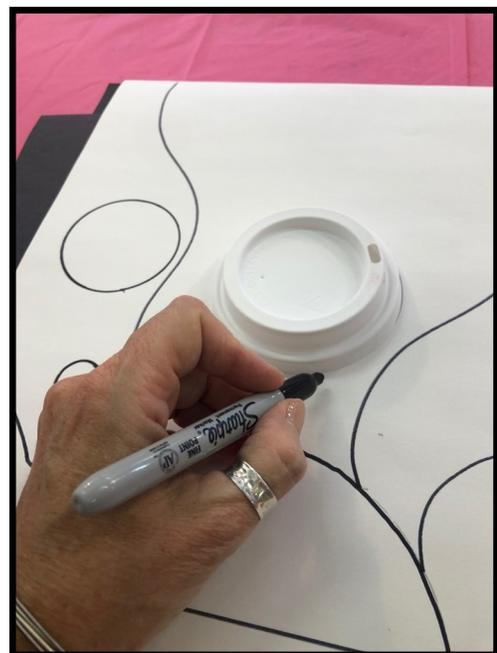
Materials: 12x18 (or larger) white paper, sharpie or black crayon, markers, crayons, a variety of objects to trace to create circles such as candles, plates, coins, cups, etc.

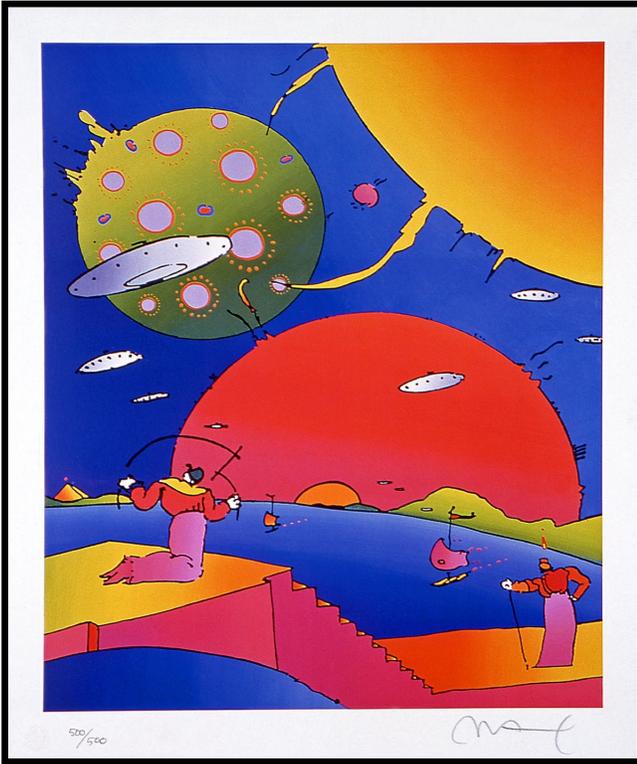
Procedures: In this lesson students will create a poster incorporating astronomy. Students will showcase the solar system, including the Sun and include any of the planets they chose to research such as Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Juniper, Saturn, Uranus, or Neptune. They may also include a variety of stars, asteroids, or a galaxy or planet of their own creation while being inspired by the works of Peter Max.



1. Using a straight edge draw a horizontal line across your paper. (Horizon Line) Next, using a large circle template, draw the sun as a semicircle that touches the horizon line.

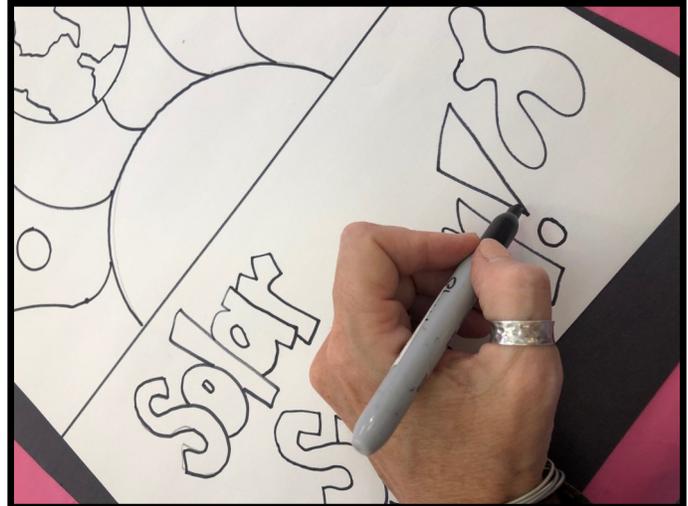
2. Using a variety of sizes of circles, trace the planets, orbiting in the space above the sun and horizon line. You may choose to include all 8 or make them larger scale and just show a few. Be sure to consider the size of each in relationship to one another.



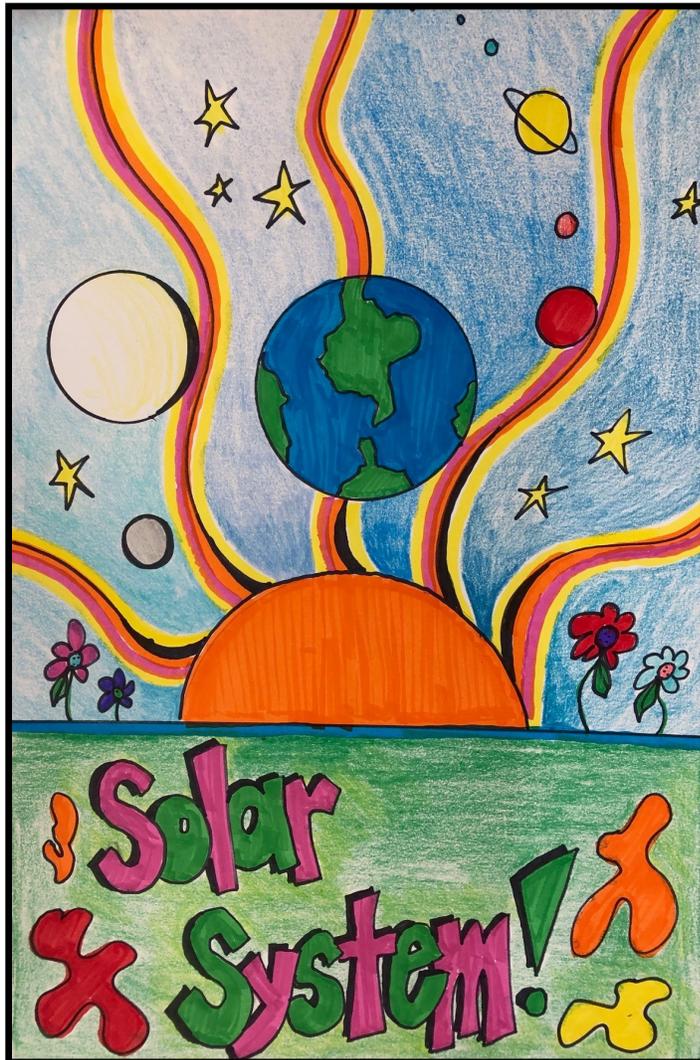
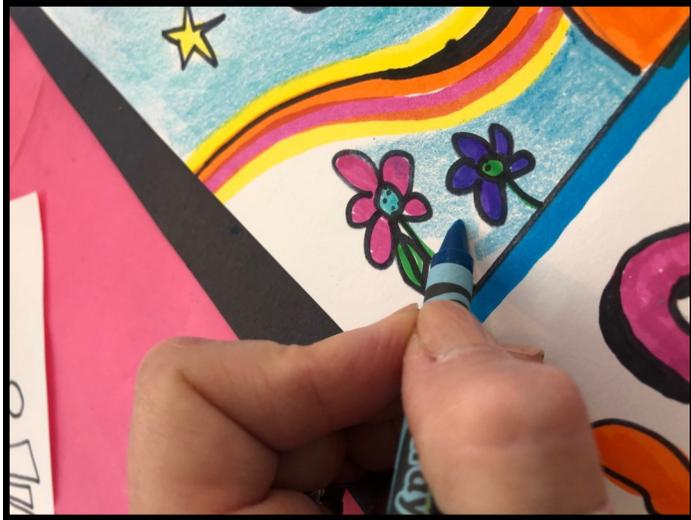


3. Next, sketch in creative details of your own such as sun rays, asteroids, space ships, astronauts, or other stars. You may choose to draw an environment below the horizon line such as seen in this example by Peter Max. Is the point of view from the moon? On the space station? Or a newly “discovered” planet. Are there people on that planet? Mountains? Water?

4. Add any public messages or words to your poster in large letters.



5. After you are finished with your drawing, outline in black crayon or sharpie and use markers to color the foreground and middle ground objects.



6. Use crayon to fill in the background.

Watch a free video of this lesson on



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