

Stellar Galaxy Jars: RUN OF SHOW

Stellar Galaxy Jar	
Estimated Prep Time	30 minutes
Estimated Run Time	45 minutes
Ideal Age Range	3 - 6
Alternative Names	DIY Galaxy Jar; Lava Lamp
Brief Description	Take a trip to the stars with a galaxy jar and meet an alien on your journey. Let's explore the cosmos - choose your materials and let's make it awesome!



Set Up For Success

Supplies:

- Trays (one for each CAMPer)
- Containers
- Jars (plastic jar, mason jar or pickle jar)
- For Painted Light-Up Jars: Sponge, Paints, and Battery String-Lights
- For Lava Lamps: Water, Vegetable Oil, and Food Coloring
- For Alien Friends: Clay - OR - Pipe Cleaners (+ pom-poms and googly eyes)
- Kid Scissors
- Paint Markers
- Adhesive (tape, glue dots, etc.)
- Sequins, Glitter, gems, etc.

Prep/ Set Up Details:

- Prep a tray for each camper to include their jar decoration materials
- Organize all shared supplies in containers (e.g., paint markers, clay, pom-poms, etc.)
- Prepare a few relevant fun facts or questions to enrich the activity discussion!
 - Did you know that our planet and solar system are in the Milky Way Galaxy?
 - And there are billions of other stars (besides our sun) in the Milky Way Galaxy - so many, in fact, that scientists are still not sure exactly how many.

Preparing for younger CAMPers (ages 3-6)

- Pre-cut sponges
- Opt for less messy options (e.g. stickers, glue dots, etc.)

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Preparing for older CAMPers (ages 7+)

- Amp up the sparkle with glitter and sequins

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

Counselor(s) prep (30 minutes before)

Doors open (5 minutes before)

Gather (right on time)

- When all CAMPers are seated, welcome everyone!
- Introduce yourself and any other Counselors assisting the activity
- Give CAMPers a brief overview of what to expect and show CAMPers a completed “demo” or what the final product of this craft can look like
- Briefly review the tools they’ll be using and highlight any tools/techniques that require either (1) special care or (2) direct Counselor intervention
 - E.g. “Scissor edges can be sharp, so take care to always grab them by their handles and set them down gently every time!”

Icebreaker (5 minutes)

- We’re going to play Nice to Meet Ya!
- Instruct all CAMPers and Counselors to sit in a circle
- Go around the circle having each participant tell everyone their name and their favorite food
- Counselors can go first to set an example for CAMPers

Craft (25 minutes)

1. Create your galaxy jar:
 - a. Painted Jar:
 - i. Cut the sponge into 4 equal strips
 - ii. Use a paper plate to create a paint palette
 - iii. Use a sponge to dab TWO colors of paint onto the outside of your mason jar - allow this coat to dry.
 - iv. Repeat with THREE colors of paint - allow this second coat to dry
 - v. Add another coat of three colors - allow to dry
 - vi. Decorate the jar and lid with paint pens
 1. Optional - you can add glitter or sequin to the inside or outside of your jar for added stellar galaxy magic!
 - vii. Add lights inside the jar and close the lid, leaving the control/battery pack out
 - b. Lava Lamp:
 - i. Fill a pickle jar halfway with water

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- ii. Add food coloring (e.g. 1 drop green and 5 drops blue)
 - iii. Fill the rest of the jar with vegetable oil
 - iv. Decorate the jar and lid with paint pens
 1. Optional - you can add glitter or sequin to the inside or outside of your jar for added stellar galaxy magic!
 - v. Double check that the lid is closed tight and then give your lamp a shake!
2. Create an alien friend to glue to the top of your jar
- a. Clay Alien:
 - i. Make a ball for the head/body
 - ii. Roll out four legs
 - iii. Roll 9 small balls (three balls in three colors) - flatten one of the colors to create the eyelids, layer the other two to create eyeballs and irises
 - iv. Group the legs and body, adding eyes to the head
 - v. Create a smile by rolling to small/thin lips and shaping them together and placing below the eyes
 - b. Pipe Cleaner Alien:
 - i. Wrap two pipe cleaners around a pencil to create coil-y antennas
 - ii. Cut half of a pipe cleaner into 2 pieces and bend them into legs
 - iii. Glue the antennas, legs, and a googly eye onto a pom-pom

Play/Perform (10 minutes)

- Instruct all CAMPerS to sit in a circle
- Go around the circle and have each CAMPer introduce us to their space friend - they can make up a name, where they live, and where they are trying to travel to in space!

Wrap-up/goodbyes (5 minutes)

Reset/Cleanup (After - 10 minutes)