

Subj: Planet Emoji Sequences

Date: 4/14/2017

To: UTC

From: Zachary Swetz, Sam Lemonick, Alli McKee, Jessica Morrison, Anna Smylie, Craig Cummings



This is a proposal to add sequences to represent the planets Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. The planet emoji sequences would be represented with a combination of U+1F310 GLOBE WITH MERIDIANS 🌐 and combined as a sequence with ZERO-WIDTH JOINER (ZWJ) and existing Unicode code points for planetary symbols. This would allow for the representation of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

This fills a gap in existing in celestial bodies, where only the Sun, Earth and Moon are present. The addition of the Planet emoji, and our solar system, to Unicode is a powerful representation of the natural world, common to all of humanity.

Observation of our solar system was a source of wonder for mankind's earliest ancestors and a new Planet emoji would be a great way to communicate the future of space and interplanetary travel.

Inclusion Factors

Compatibility

N/A.

Predicted Frequency of Use

Fascination with planets and planetary bodies transcends people worldwide and a planet emoji would have a high predicted level for its relevance in: astronomy, astrology, space travel and popular culture.

Rankings for solar system emojis show clear evidence of their popularity. The ☀️ emoji is in the top 6%, 🌍 in the top 14% and 🟡 in the top 45% most commonly used of all emojis as measured by EmojiXpress usage stats.

<http://www.emojistats.org/>

Planets are also frequently shared on social media. Below are the count of posts in the picture taking app, Instagram, for each planet.

#Mars - 1,403,052

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/mars/>

#Jupiter - 646,547

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/jupiter/>

#Saturn - 352,264

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/saturn/>

Planets were the #1 requested emoji based on results of a recent Twitter campaign led by the American Geophysical Union. Here are some sample user responses to the question 'What geoscience emoji do you want to see?'



Rebecca Boyle 
@rboyle31

 Follow

.@theAGU Mars. Saturn. Frankly, all the other planets. Flood basalts. Dinosaur. Microbe. Zircon inclusions #geomoji

LIKES
7



11:06 AM - 30 Dec 2016



Steve Hauck 
@hauck

 Follow

@theAGU each of the planets and a comet. A Saturn alone would rule the emoji. Earthquake would be big. A lander or Rover spacecraft.

LIKES
18



11:37 AM - 29 Dec 2016



Travel to the planet Mars in particular has been the fascination of Hollywood movies and other 'science fiction' for generations. Nasa and SpaceX have reaffirmed a commitment to traveling to the Red Planet. Interplanetary travel, and conversations around it's possibilities, is sure to increase in our technologically advanced future.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2017/03/21/trump-signs-nasa-bill-aimed-at-landing-on-mars/?utm_term=.8df4c3559440

<http://www.spacex.com/mars>

Multiple usages

Planets are a reference point in astrology, ancient religion and a symbol of human interaction. Astrology often uses planetary alignment to determine whether individuals with different astrological signs will be a good love match. The ancient Roman religion (among others) was also based upon the planets. Gods like Neptune (Roman Lord of the Sea) are still popular in modern culture.

In fact, the planet names themselves all come from the mythology of the Romans. Today, the popular 'Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus' merges communication in relationships with planetary symbolism.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Men_Are_from_Mars,_Women_Are_from_Venus

<http://astrostyle.com/learn-astrology/planets-and-meanings/>

<http://rome.mrdonn.org/romangods/planets.html>

Image distinctiveness

The planets are characterized distinctively from Earth and the Moon in both color and shape.

Completeness

Current Unicode contains some celestial bodies (ex., the phases of the Moon and the rotations of the Earth) however, doesn't contain other planets in our solar system. The planets are iconic in early education and critical to understanding our place in the natural world. They are a global source of fascination, intrigue and possibility and would complete an existing set of celestial bodies.

Exclusion Factors

Overly specific

The distinct planets are commonly referenced separately from one another and over specificity should not be an issue.

Open-ended

The set of planets in this proposal, the combining sequences below, and the mythos behind planet names are limited to our solar system. The need to grow the set beyond current familiarity may exist, but is beyond the scope of this proposal.

Already Representable


The planets are not able to be represented by current emoji combinations for stars, moons and suns (ex. 🌌🌠🌟🌠🌟🌠🌟🌠🌟).



Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

Planet iconography is public domain and doesn't violate restrictions around specific individuals or brands.

Transient

Obsession with the solar system has been a constant of the human experience. Usage over time should grow, not diminish, as humans make strides towards exploring other worlds.

CODE SEQUENCE	SHORT NAME	IMAGES
1F310 200D 2642	MARS	

1F310 200D 2643	JUPITER	
1F310 200D 2644	SATURN	

*All emoji images by Alli McKee.

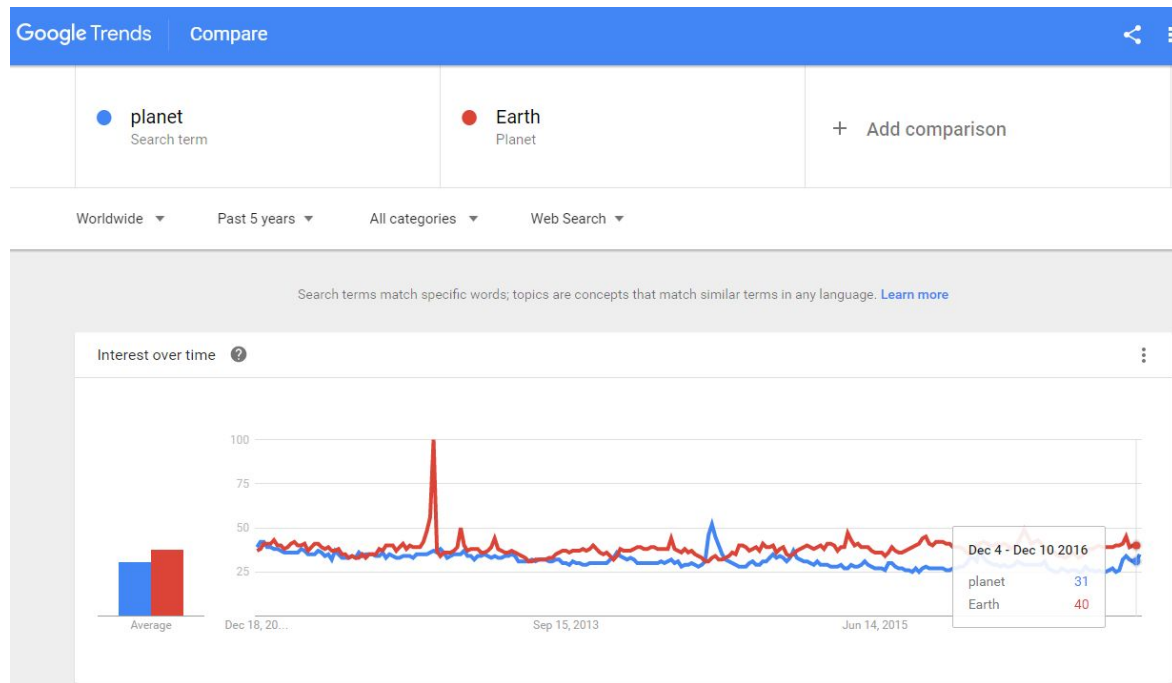
** Thanks to all contributors, especially Craig Cummings for his guidance and input on this proposal and Jennifer 8 Lee for her help fostering an open culture around Unicode. We hope it is successful and provides a positive impact on generations of emoji enthusiasts to come.

Evidence of Frequency

Popularity estimation of proposed characters based on comparison to existing characters using Google Trends

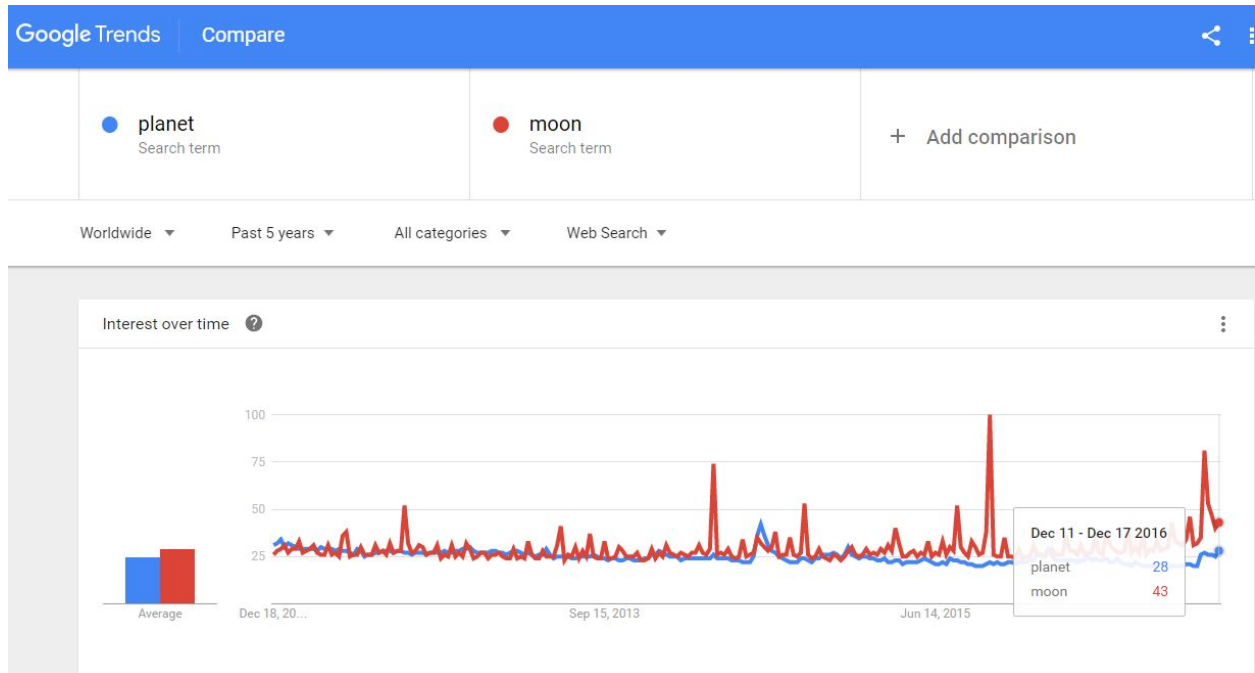
PLANET - 90% popularity: planet 35 vs Earth 39

<https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?q=planet,earth>



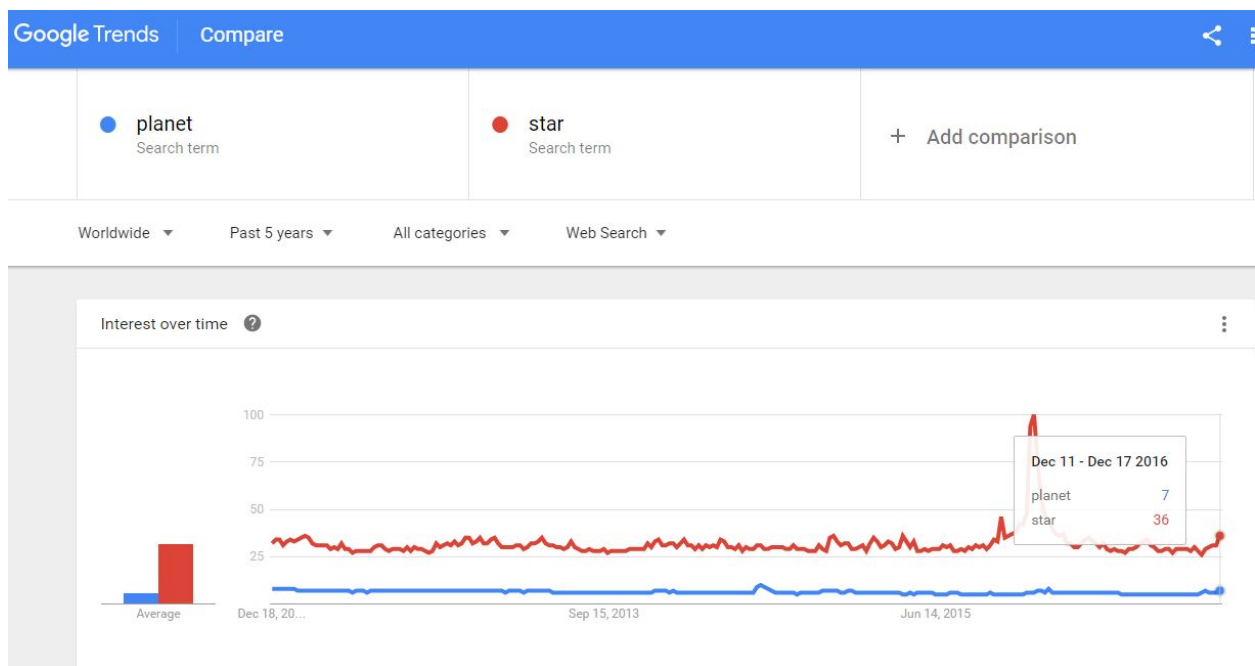
PLANET - 65% popularity: planet 28 vs moon 43

<https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?q=planet,moon>



PLANET - 19% popularity: planet 7 vs star 36

<https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?q=planet,star>



PLANET - 1340% popularity: planet 67 vs comet 5

<https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?q=planet,comet>

