

COME TO OUR PLANET!

Objective

Upon completion of this activity, students will be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of a planet in our solar system through its physical characteristics, its relationship to the Earth and the Sun, its mythology, and the history of its space exploration.
- complete research related to a planet in order to provide information for a final project.
- communicate clearly and effectively the information organized through the research process.
- demonstrate the ability to work as a team.
- demonstrate effective use of technology.

Instructional Time

45–90 minutes

Materials

“Come To Our Planet” Student Worksheet

Internet

Pencil/Pen

Procedure

1. Distribute student worksheet to the students.
2. Discuss the purpose and procedures of this assignment.
3. Assign students to a group of four.
4. Establish time for students to research planet information on the Internet.
5. Provide a timeline for students to complete research and make presentations.
6. Provide students with rubric for evaluating their research and presentation.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

	Criteria				Points
	1	2	3	4	
Organization	Audience cannot understand presentation due to no sequence of information.	Audience has difficulty following presentation because students jump around.	Students present information in logical sequence which audience can follow.	Students present information in logical, interesting sequence which audience can follow.	----
Content Knowledge	Students do not have grasp of information; students cannot answer questions about subject.	Students are uncomfortable with information and are able to answer only rudimentary questions.	Students are at ease with content, but fail to elaborate.	Students demonstrates full knowledge (more than required)with explanations and elaboration.	----
Use of Internet/ Resources	Students did not use internet or additional resources.	Students used only one resource.	Students used two or three resources.	Students used a variety of resources.	----
Visuals	Students used no visuals.	Students occasionally used visuals that rarely support text and presentation.	Visuals related to text and presentation.	Students used visuals to reinforce screen text and presentation.	----
Mechanics	Students presentation had four or more spelling errors and/or grammatical errors.	Presentation had three misspellings and/or grammatical errors.	Presentation has no more than two misspellings and/or grammatical errors.	Presentation has no misspellings or grammatical errors.	----
Delivery	Students mumble, incorrectly pronounces terms, and speaks too quietly for students in the back of class to hear.	Students incorrectly pronounces terms. Audience members have difficulty hearing presentation.	Student's voice is clear. Students pronounce most words correctly.	Students used a clear voice and correct, precise pronunciation of terms.	----
				Total----->	----

Teacher Comments:

Student Name _____ Date _____

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Introduction

It is the year 2098. You are a member of a fact-find team with the Intergalactic Travel Agency. This agency is interested in providing information and presentations about various vacation packages to the planets in our solar system.

The Task

Your fact-finding team is responsible for developing a presentation and brochure to promote your planet as the “Number One Travel Destination In The Universe”. Every planet has something to offer the adventurous traveler. Information to incorporate into your presentation could include such things as the best sports to visit and the best time of year, what to pack, activities available (i.e. climbing, swimming, snorkeling, exploring). Your team will develop a travel brochure and a Hyper Studio presentation to present to the other members of the Agency. Include background information about the physical characteristics of your planet, mythology behind your planet’s name, and any exploration that has been done of your planet.

To complete this project, you will need to go to the following sites on the Internet:

[Astronomy for Kids](#) is a very elementary site with basic information about each of the planets. It includes a color picture as well.

The [Nine Planets: A Multimedia Tour of the Solar System](#) gives an overview of the history, mythology, and current scientific knowledge of each of the planets and moons in our solar system.

[Views of the Solar System](#) presents a vivid multimedia adventure unfolding the splendor of the Sun, planets, moons, comets, asteroids, space missions, and spacecraft through a vast archive of photographs, scientific facts, text, graphics and videos. Views of the Solar System offers enhanced exploration and educational enjoyment of the solar system and beyond.

[Windows to the Universe](#) has general information on the solar system and the universe. You will also find information on myths, art books and film, space missions, people, and data. Go to the table of contents by clicking on “Enter this site”.

You may also use information from encyclopedias, periodicals, and books on reserve in the library.

Student Name _____ Date _____

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The Process

You will be assigned to a team of four students. Each team will complete research related to your planet in the areas of physical characteristics, weather, seasonal information, mythology, space exploration, and relationship to the Earth and the Sun.

Follow these steps:

1. Each team member will select a role and assignment from the selections below.
2. Each team will create an action plan.
3. Each team will determine the method of presenting their final product.
4. Each team will present their final project to their classmates.

Team Roles and Assignments:

Scientist: Your job will be to find information on the weather, seasonal information, and physical characteristics of your planet.

Mission Specialist: Your job will be to provide information on the history of the space exploration of your planet.

Historian: Your job will be to research the mythology about your planet.

Logistical Engineer: Your job will be to determine the distance to your planet, the best method of travel, and the problems that might be encountered.

1. The role I have chosen for this team activity is: _____.

2. Our team action plan is as follows:

3. Method chosen for presenting final product: