

Our Solar System

Summary

Student will research information about our solar system and apply that knowledge to complete a project from www.spaceday.com

Time Frame

5 class periods of 45 minutes each

Group Size

Small Groups

Materials

Computer with Internet access

Solar System reference materials

Various project-specific materials as specified on www.spaceday.com

Background for Teachers

This lesson plan uses the web site www.spaceday.com. This web site is an excellent source of information about the solar system. It also provides three project ideas from which students can choose. Completed projects can be submitted for judging; however, even if entries are not submitted, they provide wonderful inquiry and research opportunities for students.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Use reference materials to describe and compare the physical properties of the planets.

Apply knowledge to find a solution for a fictional scenario.

Instructional Procedures

Before Classroom Instruction:

Access and preview the contents of www.spaceday.com

Carefully review suggested projects to determine which will best meet your individual needs.

Arrange Internet access for students or print the necessary materials from www.spaceday.com

Obtain the additional reference materials necessary to successfully complete the selected projects.

Create a timeline for the projects that will accommodate your schedule and student abilities.

During Classroom Instruction:

Have students read, or you may explain the purpose of the www.spaceday.com projects.

Identify which projects you have approved.

Divide them into groups or have them select with whom they would like to work.

Outline expectations and the timeline for the project. Use the rubrics and expectations included on the web site to help students understand what is required.

Give students ample time in class to use the reference materials they will need to complete their chosen projects.

Provide the support necessary for students to be successful

Ensure all completed projects meet the criteria established by www.spaceday.com

Assessment Plan

Have students self-assess their completed projects using the rubrics provided by

www.spaceday.com

Use the rubrics provided by www.spaceday.com to teacher-assess their completed projects. Have students present or share their projects with the other members of the class. Discuss similarities and differences in approaches to the scenarios.

Submit completed projects to www.spaceday.com for judging. Be sure to observe all posted due dates.

Bibliography

Original lesson plan created by Lyn Wright.

Authors

[Teresa Hislop](#)

[KIRSTIN REED](#)