

Space Odyssey Online Teacher's Guide

Space For Kids

Postvisit Activity for Current Events in Space



Courtesy NASA

Grades 4-8

CDE Standards

Science: 1,4,4,5

Language Arts: 1,2,3,4,5,6

Preparation and Materials

Estimated Preparation Time: 10 minutes

Estimated Activity Time: Three to five class periods of at least 30 minutes

Materials

Paper

Computers

Newspapers

Magazines

Internet access

Copies of *Time for Kids*

Copies of "Colorado Kids" from the Tuesday *Denver Post*

Publishing software (optional)

Construction paper (optional)

Scissors (optional)

Glue (optional)

Markers, crayons, or colored pencils (optional)

Learning Goals/Objectives

Students will

- Use articles and news stories about current space events to create a classroom "Space for Kids" newsletter
- Summarize information found in their research to write their own news articles using the five "wh" questions: who, what, where, when, and why

Connection to *Space Odyssey*

Space Odyssey is committed to providing its visitors with up-to-date information about current events in space. Museum Galaxy Guides have access to current space news on their laptops' digital collections portal. Museum Galaxy Guides are trained not only to provide you with current information but also to find the answers to your questions using the Museum Galaxy Guide Portal. Alternatively, visitors can explore on their own using the Mission Board, where they will find the latest space science news via satellite. Visitors can find out about day-to-day activities in space and see and hear a running update of upcoming and ongoing space missions. The Space Screen showcases images from the Hubble Space Telescope, Chandra X-ray Observatory, robotic orbiters and landers, as well as other major

observatories. Museum visitors can also access the InfoLounge where they can explore the latest in space science. Computers, videos, DVDs, books, magazines, and the Museum's Digital Library will keep visitors updated on the latest and greatest space sciences information available.

Advanced Preparation

1. Locate copies of *Time for Kids* or "Colorado Kids" in the Tuesday edition of the *Denver Post*. Familiarize your students with the sections and layout of each periodical.
2. Decide how students will produce their newsletter. If the final newsletters will be computer generated, you will need a publishing program such as Microsoft Publisher or some similar software. If the final products will be cut-and-paste products like a scrapbook, you will need to assemble additional supplies.

Classroom Activity

1. Put students into cooperative learning groups and assign or have them "apply" for positions within their teams. Each group should have at least one editor, layout designer, artist, and writer.
2. The teams will need to work together to brainstorm stories they have already learned about and then decide on the layout and sections for their newsletter. After they have decided upon sections, the writers will need to research and write articles for each section.
3. Have students work together using articles from your Current Events in Space bulletin board, information they learned from *Space Odyssey*, and other research to write articles and activities about current events in space.
4. Give students the necessary materials to publish and share their newsletters with other groups.

Variations/Extensions

1. Turn your newsletter into a script for a space updates TV show similar to the *Space Today* program in *Space Odyssey*.
2. Have students develop quizzes to give to other groups after reading their newsletter. Allow groups to work together to read and complete the quiz for each newsletter.
3. Allow students to assess other teams' work using the "Space for Kids" rubric.

Resources

<http://www.nasa.gov/missions/highlights/index.html>

<http://www.spaceref.com/>

<http://www.hubblesite.org/newscenter/>

<http://www.nasa.gov/news/highlights/index.html>

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/>

<http://www.spaceflightnow.com>

<http://www.space.com>

Team Name: _____
 Assessor's Name: _____

"Space for Kids" Rubric

| | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Score |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|--|-------|
| Organization | The newsletter has an easy-to-follow format and the text flows smoothly from one idea to another. The sequencing is logical and effective. | The sequencing of the newsletter is easy to follow. The layout is reader friendly. | The sequencing shows some logic but may sometimes leave the reader confused. The layout is hard to follow. | The writing lacks a clear sense of direction. The connection between ideas is confusing and the sequencing needs a lot of work. The layout is confusing for the reader. | |
| Presentation | The newsletter has exceptionally attractive formatting and well-organized information. Graphics go well with the text. There is a balance of text and graphics. The newsletter is informative and pleasing to the reader. | The newsletter has attractive formatting and organized information. Graphics complement the text, but there may be a lack of balance between text and graphics. The newsletter is informative and easy to read. | The newsletter is formatted and contains relevant information though the layout may be very general with few or no graphics. This newsletter is adequate, but is not fun to read. | The newsletter's formatting and organization are confusing to the reader. Graphics do not match the text or appear to be randomly chosen. This newsletter is difficult to read and understand. | |
| Scientific Accuracy | Scientific facts are completely accurate. The reader can learn a great deal of information about current events in space. | Scientific facts are mostly accurate. There may be one or two errors or inconsistencies in the information. The reader can learn important information about current events in space. | Scientific facts are somewhat accurate, though there may be more than a few errors or inconsistencies. The reader may need more information to learn about what's happening in space. | Scientific facts are completely inaccurate. The facts are misleading and do not relate to current happenings in space. | |
| Text Conventions | There are no grammar, spelling, capitalization, or punctuation errors in this piece. The authors correctly use scientific vocabulary and define words unfamiliar to the reader. | There are very few mistakes in grammar, spelling, capitalization, or punctuation in this piece. The authors correctly use scientific vocabulary. | There are many mistakes in grammar, spelling, capitalization, or punctuation in this piece. The authors sometimes struggle in using scientific vocabulary correctly. | This project is riddled with errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. The authors misuse vocabulary throughout the piece. | |
| Sources | The team has gone above and beyond to research information for their newsletter. The authors used factual information and personal ideas to enhance the project. At least four sources were cited for this project. | The team has done an excellent job of researching. They have correctly cited at least three sources of information to provide factual information to the reader. | The team has used a minimum number of resources to provide factual information to the reader. Some of the team's citations may be incomplete or inaccurate. | The team did not include accurate documentation of their sources. Resources were not used effectively. The team did little or no fact gathering on the topic. | |