

Space Odyssey Online Teacher's Guide

What's Up In Space

Previsit Activity for Current Events in Space



Courtesy SEDS

Grades 9-12

CDE Standards

Science: 4.4

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

Preparation and Materials

Estimated Preparation Time: 30 minutes

Estimated Activity Time: 10-15 minutes of discussion time each day of your unit

Materials

Bulletin board

Butcher paper

Bulletin board border

Newspapers (optional)

Magazines (optional)

Computer with Internet connection (optional)

Learning Goals/Objectives

Students will

- Locate newspaper articles about current happenings in space
- Read and summarize the events contained in a newspaper article
- Discuss current events in space

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 cameras and 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

Prepare a bulletin board for use during this activity. Cover the bulletin board with brightly colored butcher paper. Provide pushpins or a stapler for students to tack their articles up on the board.

Classroom Activity

1. Introduce the bulletin board to your students. Explain that for part of their homework (or during class time if you choose) they will look through newspapers, magazines, and Internet sites to find current events in space. These events might include pictures from the Hubble Space Telescope or articles from the newspaper or magazines about upcoming space missions.
2. After students have found articles to share, have them complete the summary sheet for each article.
3. Dedicate at least 10-15 minutes of your learning time for students to share and discuss articles for the Current Events bulletin board. Ask them to share their summaries about the articles. Allow students to post their articles and summaries on the bulletin board after they've shared them with their classmates.

Variations/Extensions

1. Ask students to write a news article of their own about a current space event. They may use newspaper and Internet articles to research. Incorporate student articles into a classroom space events newsletter.
2. Ask students to work in groups to create a "Space Today" newscast similar to one they will see when visiting *Space Odyssey*. Ask students to do further research on articles displayed on your bulletin board. Have students write a script and act out the show, complete with digital images in a PowerPoint presentation.
3. Send students to the NASA Web site to further research the articles they found. Have students compare articles found in the newspaper and magazines with the same article from the NASA Web site. Ask students to compare the articles and locate any differences between the two sources.

Resources

Web sites

<http://www.spacetoday.org/STO.html>

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

Periodicals

Denver Post

Rocky Mountain News

Name: _____

What's Up in Space

Use your current events in space article to answer the questions below.

Title: _____

Author: _____

Source: _____

Main Idea: _____

An interesting new fact I learned is _____

A new vocabulary word I learned is _____

It means _____

Name _____

What's Up in Space

Newspaper articles usually answer six important questions. Use your current events in space article to answer those six questions below.

Who? _____

What? _____

Where? _____

When? _____

Why? _____

How? _____

Mountain News