

Space Odyssey Online Teacher's Guide

What's Up In Space

Previsit Activity for Current Events in Space



Courtesy SEDS

Grades 4-8

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 news 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 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

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. Extend your discussion to include the mechanics of a newspaper article. Teach students about headlines, leads, etc. Have students write their new headlines and leads for their space articles.
2. Discuss how newspaper articles usually answer six questions. Ask students to find the "who, what, where, when, why, and how" for their newspaper article.
3. Have students use the current information they've gathered to write and act out a "Space News" show.
4. When you visit *Space Odyssey*, ask your Museum Galaxy Guide about your article. Can you find more information about your topic? Can you stump your Museum Galaxy Guide?

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? _____
