

NAME: _____



Activity One



Save Pluto!

Writing a Short Essay

Based on what you have learned from the reading passages, you will write an essay to persuade the scientific community to reinstate Pluto's status as a real planet.

STEP ONE

Begin by choosing three good reasons why Pluto fits the description of a real planet. Write each reason into one of the boxes below. These reasons will form the main body of your essay.

Now all you need to do is add an introduction that explains the conflict about why Pluto planetary status is in question. Remember to finish the first paragraph by stating which side you will argue for. Your last paragraph is the conclusion, where you wrap-up your essay and restate your position on the issue.

STEP TWO

Once you have sketched out your ideas in the boxes, write your rough draft. It is always important to re-read your writing to yourself at least twice to catch any omissions. Check closely for any spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors. Ask for help when you are unsure.

STEP THREE

Write your good draft.

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Activity Two



Phases of the Moon

Creating an Interactive Display

You will be creating an interactive display that will teach about the relationship between Sun, Moon and Earth, and demonstrate the phases of the moon.

STEP ONE

You will need a Styrofoam ball stuck onto the end of a pencil to represent the moon. You will also need a light source, like a strong flashlight or bulb on a cord, and a dark room. Prepare your materials.

STEP TWO

The light source will represent the Sun. Have someone help you by holding it in a fixed position. Your head will represent the Earth, and your nose the city that you live in. Hold the Moon away from you at arm's length and begin to move around. Remember that the phases of the Moon are caused solely by the movement of the Moon around Earth. Challenge yourself to model the eight phases of the Moon by moving in the light.

STEP THREE

Prepare a sequence of movements that will demonstrate the eight phases of the moon to teach others about what makes them happen.

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Activity Three



Asteroid Attack!

Writing a News Report

You will write either a news article or a news broadcast that warns of an imminent meteorite collision with Earth, near your town! You will include quotes/interviews with scientists who will educate your viewers/readers about how the asteroid made its way to Earth. You will also need to warn the public about the expected damage from the impact.

STEP ONE

Review your reading passages about Asteroids. Think about the possible calamity that you could imagine for your story. Fill in the 5 W's chart below to give the Who? What? Where? When? and Why?

STEP TWO

Create a character to interview for the background science knowledge. What information will they contribute? What other details will you include? Add some notes to the Details box below.

STEP THREE

Write your article. Then, think of a good news heading that will get readers attention, and may get your piece selected as the headline news.

STEP FOUR

If you are creating a news broadcast, see if you can film your piece for presentation. If you are writing an article, look into publishing it using software.

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Activity Four

Constellation Cardio

Design a Game

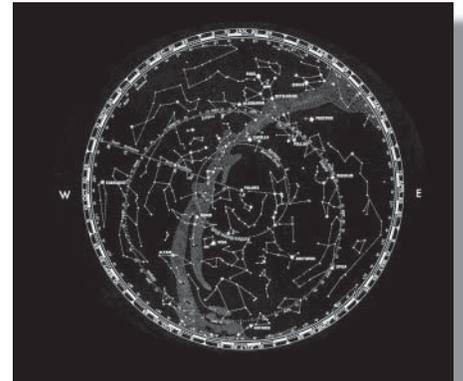


Based on your readings of constellations, you will design a game that can be played by a gym class that incorporates star patterns.

Need more help? Think about using people, pylons or other equipment to map out a constellation on the gym floor. Now, turn this into a game! How might a game of tag be incorporated with these stars? Or dodgeball? Be creative.

STEP ONE

Design your game. Plan for the materials you will need. Be sure you have a clear understanding of the objective and have thought about what rules will be needed to make the game run smoothly and safely. Draw a sketch of the gym set-up.



STEP TWO

Explain your game to a friend or family member to see what they think. This will give you a chance to work out any kinks that you might not have thought about.

STEP THREE

Present your finished game to your teacher. Perhaps you may get to be gym teacher for a day!

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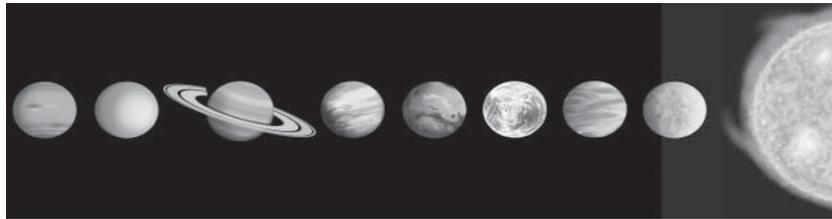
Activity Five

Planetary Conflict



Writing a Play

Based on what you have learned from the reading passages, you will write a play that stars the planets as characters. Assign a personality to each planet. The plot of your play should centre around a conflict between the inner and outer planets.



STEP ONE

Write an outline of your play that tells what the conflict will be and how it will be resolved in the end.

STEP TWO

Write the play. Be sure that you introduce the planet-characters so that their personality comes out.

STEP THREE

Talk to your teacher about how you might be able to present your play.

STEP FOUR

Cast your play. If you plan to put this on in front of the class, choose classmates who you think would suit the roles you have written. Or, you could cast Hollywood stars in the roles of the planets.

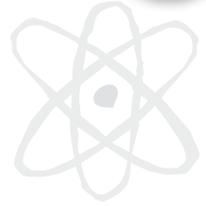
STEP FIVE

It's show time!

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Activity Six



Take a Trip Through the Solar System

Make a Travel Pamphlet

Based on what you have learned from the reading passages, you will make a travel pamphlet to advertise a tour of the solar system. Your pamphlet should highlight the key features of the trip and points of interest for your passengers.

Questions to Consider in Planning your Pamphlet:

- 1) How will you get there?
- 2) From where will you take off?
- 3) Where will you go?
- 4) How long will it take?
- 5) What sorts of things will you get to see?
- 6) How much will it cost?
- 7) What is the name of your company?
- 8) How can people get in touch with you?

Remember, when people pick up and read your pamphlet, they should be convinced to take your tour. Whether you create the folded pamphlet by hand, or using software, it should be creative and attractive.