

Tripping Through Our Galaxy

Lesson One:

Title: Exploring Our Galaxy

Grade: 3rd

Subject: Solar System

Topic of Lesson: To see what the students know about the Solar System

Standards

Content Area: Science

Standard #: 4: Earth and Space Science: Students know and understand the processes and interaction of Earth's systems and the structure and dynamics of Earth and other objects in space.

Benchmark/Grade Level Expectancy: Recognizes objects in space and interaction with Earth's systems

- Label objects in the sky that can be viewed unaided
- Identify sun, moon, and stars
- Associate sun with daylight and stars with twilight/evening
- Identify the sun as a source of heat and light
- Describe the effects of sun's light and heat on living things
- Recognizes that earth's rotation causes the sun to appear differently throughout the day
- Recognize that objects in the sky have patterns of movement
- Identify the moon's appearance using quantitative labels
- Distinguish between fiction and fact regarding space exploration
- Recognize how aerospace design impacts space travel
- Identify ways in which basic needs can be met in space

Content Area: Art

Standard #: 1 Students recognize and use the visual arts as a form of Communication.

Benchmark/Grade Level Expectancy:

Identifying visual images, themes, and ideas for works of art

- Selecting and using visual images, themes, and ideas to communicate meaning
- Comparing the use of visual images and ideas

Overview

Objective: The students will be able to draw their understanding of the planets and the solar system.

Assessment Plan: The assessment will be very informal. Assess what the students have drawn to see what they understand about the planets and our solar system. After the discussion place the planet cutouts in the correct order on the bulletin board.

Learning Context: This is the first of six lessons about the planets and the solar system. This lesson is where information will be gathered about what the students know and understand about the planets and the solar system. This

will enable the teacher to assess what knowledge the students have before the unit begins. Teacher and students will make a KWL chart.

Time Allotment: 15-25 minutes

Instructional Materials:

Teacher and Student Materials:

- Long white paper to draw on
- Planet and solar system cut outs
- Paper for KWL chart
- Marker to write KWL chart with
- Bill Nye DVD
- Computer with access to internet
- Color pencils
- pencil

Sequence of Procedures (This is where the teaching begins)

Opening

Gaining Attention: To begin the unit students will watch the Bill Nye DVD and the video from www.californiastreaming.com call Our Solar System.

Assessing Prior Knowledge: This lesson is all about assessing the student's prior knowledge.

State Purpose (Objective) of Lesson: The students will be able to demonstrate to the teacher what they know about the planets and the solar system. In addition, they will learn the order of the planets and distance from the sun to the planets.

Body

Teacher Input(s): Discuss the important facts about the solar system. Place the piece of paper on the desk of the students. Tell the students to draw what they think the planets look like, where they are in relation to the sun and each other, and what other objects they think are in space.

Things teacher will want them to draw:

- Inner planets
- The planet (Teacher does not tell them how many to draw because they are gathering information that the students have learned)

Teacher writes a few items on the board that I want the students to have in their pictures. This activity will help the teacher to understand the amount of knowledge the students have about the planets in our solar system..

Guided Practice(s): This activity will be done with assistance from the teacher.

Checks for Understanding: After activities are completed the teacher will have a greater understanding of the students' knowledge base.

Assessment (Independent Practice)

This will be an informal assessment. Teacher will be looking at the pictures the students have drawn to see what is needed to teach over the next five lessons.

Closure

Complete the solar system display on the bulletin board and discuss the planets.

Reteaching Activities:

This lesson enables the teacher to know and understand students prior knowledge about planets.

Extension Activities:

There will be many activities throughout the week for the students to learn more about the planets.

References:

Bill Nye the Science Guy DVD, Solar System
<http://www.californiastreaming.com>