

## Tripping Through Our Galaxy

### Lesson Four:

**Title:** Writing about your Planet

**Grade:** 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Subject:** Writing and Technology

**Topic of Lesson:** Writing an expository paper

### Standards

**Content Area:** Science

**Standard:** 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:** Writing

**Standard:** Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

**Benchmark/Grade Level Expectancy:**

- know and use standard, age-appropriate spelling, grammar, word usage

### Overview

**Objective:** Students will write an expository report on their planet. Students will use scientific terms to describe their planet and compare it to the planet Earth. In addition, students will type their report using Microsoft Word.

**Assessment Plan:** After the students have written their rough draft students will trade papers with a partner and check for errors in the paper. Once they have done that with a partner the teacher will go over the story with them and talk about why things need to be changed.

**Learning Context:** The students should have already written a few different stories this year. Therefore, they have an idea of how much to write and what is expected out of their writing. Since they have been writing for years and have a good understanding of the proper grammar their paper should contain. They

also know the different things that are in space that they can include in their stories and pictures.

**Time Allotment:** 10 class periods 40 minutes each

**Instructional Materials:**

Teacher and Student Materials:

- Picture of my planet
- Planet worksheet
- Writing paper
- Computer
- LCD projector
- Document camera
- Microsoft Office with Power Point
- Pencil

[Sequence of Procedures](#)

**Opening**

Gaining Attention: Show them a picture of the solar system with a document camera or overhead projector. Discuss the important facts of each planet. Each student will begin typing their report.

Assessing Prior Knowledge: Students writing strengths and weaknesses should be known to the teacher.

State Purpose (Objective) of Lesson: Students will understand what is wanted and needed on their planet report and how to type and format a paper on Microsoft Word.

**Body**

Teacher Input(s): Students will be given a planet worksheet that describes what they need to write. Once they have filled in the information they will begin writing about the planet using their outline. After completed they will self edit, partner edit, then I will edit all papers. Discuss with each planet group what they have written. After the final edit they will begin to type the paper on the computer using Microsoft Word. All pictures and projects will be displayed after completion.

Guided Practice(s): Model a completed worksheet. Then assist students as needed while they write and type.

Checks for Understanding: This is ongoing throughout the lesson.

**Assessment (Independent Practice)**

The final written reports will be use for assessment purposes.

**Closure**

At the end of the lesson when all students are finished, discuss the process and what they have learned.

**Reteaching Activities:**

There will be a lot of other stories the students will be writing throughout the year to work on their writing skills. Assist students as needed. Also, by constantly walking and talking to students it will make them stay on task and focused.

**Extension Activities:**

Students will be constantly revisiting these topics and skills throughout the school year.

**References:**

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/Home.html>