NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

April 8, 2019



Outer Space Research Project

The sixth-grade class in Saint Michael School is on a fact-finding mission. The mission is to promote one celestial body as the “Number One Travel Destination in our Universe.”

**STEP 1: GATHER INFORMATION**

Get to know your topic. Read as much information about the topic as you can find. You will need a minimum of three resources. You can use our classroom library, the Internet, or your own books. As you’re reading about your topic, take notes on key information, either on Google Docs or on loose-leaf paper. This will be part of your grade. Keep track of the sources you use, because you will need to create a works cited page as well. You will have time in class to work on the research. Any work that is not completed in the allotted class time will be homework.

**STEP 2: SELECT A PROJECT**

You have the option of making a PowerPoint presentation, a poster board, a brochure, a short video, or a script for a live performance. If you have a different idea for a project, I welcome the creativity! However, please check with me first if you would like to create a project that is not listed above.

The following information should be included in your project:

Section 1:

* Name of your topic
  + What is your topic named for?
* Picture of your topic
* When was your topic discovered?
  + For example, the first written observations of Venus date back to 1600 BC, while the moon Io was discovered in 1610
* A descriptive phrase about your topic that would make someone want to visit

Section 2:

* Position in the Solar System: Where is your topic located? How far from the Sun or from Earth is your object?
  + For example, Earth is the third planet from the Sun and is approximately 93 million miles from the Sun
* Orbit: Does your object orbit the Sun? Does it orbit a planet? How long is your object’s orbit? Is its orbit unusual?
* Rotation on its Axis: Does your topic rotate on its axis? How long does it take for your object to rotate on its own axis?
  + For example, Earth takes 1 day to rotate on its axis, and our moon takes approximately 27 days to orbit in its axis

Section 3:

* Appearance of your topic: What does your topic look like? Is there any special terrain on your object?
* Size: How big is your topic? How big is it relative to Earth? Relative to our Sun?
* Mass: What is your topic’s mass? Is this heavy or light compared to Earth?
* Moons: Does your topic have moons? How many? If there are moons orbiting your planet, describe at least two of them and note when they were discovered.
  + If your topic *is* a moon, what planet does it orbit?
* Rings: If there are rings orbiting your topic, describe them and when they were discovered.

Section 4:

* Composition of your Planet: What is your topic made of? What is its internal composition?
* Gravity: What is the force of gravity like on the surface of your topic? (For example, what would a 100-pound person weigh on your object)?
* Atmosphere: What is the composition of the atmosphere of your object? Is it a thick or a thin atmosphere?
* Temperature: What is the temperature range on your object?

Section 5: Something Special

* Is there anything special about your topic? This can often be the best part of the project. For example, are there 100-year long storms on your object? Are there giant volcanoes? Does your object have a very tilted axis, giving it extreme seasons? Have space crafts visited of flown by your topic? If so, what have they discovered? Is your topic in an orbit with another solar body? Be creative!

Section 6:

* Tell us why we should visit this object! What might we be able to see or do, what will we remember most about our visit? You might want to include things we would need to be careful of, what clothes, equipment, etc. to bring. Remember, your goal is to persuade travelers to visit your planet because it’s the “Number One Travel Destination in our Universe.”

**STEP 3: CREATE YOUR WORKS CITED PAGE**

You will need at least three sources for this project. Cite your sources on a separate sheet of paper with a proper heading. List all your sources using MLA format. We will spend time in class reviewing the appropriate format.

**STEP 4: PRESENT TO THE CLASS**

Just like a travel agent would promote their favorite travel destination, this will be your opportunity to promote your planet to the class!

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

You will submit your research, project, and works cited page.

**Planet Travel Brochure Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Excellent  10 points | Above Average  8 points | Average    6 points | Below Average  4 points | Low Performance  2 points |
| Worked well in class and did not distract others |  |  |  |  |  |
| Section 1  Descriptive phrase  Name and grade  Planet picture/name  Spelling and grammar  Creative and colorful |  |  |  |  |  |
| Section 2  Followed directions  Accurate information  Spelling and grammar  Creative and colorful |  |  |  |  |  |
| Section 3  Followed directions  Accurate information  Spelling and grammar  Creative and colorful |  |  |  |  |  |
| Section 4  Followed directions  Accurate information  Spelling and grammar  Creative and colorful |  |  |  |  |  |
| Section 5  Followed directions  Accurate information  Well written  One paragraph minimum  Spelling and grammar  Creative and colorful | \_\_ x 2 = \_\_ | \_\_ x 2 = \_\_ | \_\_ x 2 = \_ | \_\_ x 2 = \_\_ | \_\_ x 2 = \_\_ |
| Section 6  Followed directions  Accurate information  Well written  One paragraph minimum  Spelling and grammar  Creative and colorful | \_\_ x 2 = \_\_ | \_\_ x 2 = \_\_ | \_\_ x 2 = \_ | \_\_ x 2 = \_\_ | \_\_ x 2 = \_\_ |
| Works Cited |  |  |  |  |  |

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_