

The Sky Above Pre Visit Stokes Nature Center

Grade 3

Core Curriculum Standard 1: Students will understand that the shape of the earth and the moon are spherical and that the Earth rotates on its axis to produce the appearance of the Sun and Moon moving through the sky.

Objectives: Students will...

Through observation become familiar with the phases of the moon
Create a mural of seasons

Materials: Paper, markers, pencils, butcher paper, photo copies of the moon journal attached

Lesson plan:

1. Create a moon journal, have students make a book that they can record what the moon looks like each night. Make copies of the attached moon journal (number of copies to complete a full moon cycle, even if they will not be observing a full cycle because in the post visit activities they are asked to complete the cycle) pages, or use blank 8.5 by 11 papers. Feel free to cut the paper in half creating a smaller journal. Bind the students' books using some yarn, and big needles or staples or yarn and a hole punch or any creative idea you can think of. Ask the students to save the journal to use and add to after SNC program

This webpage will help you find out the time of the moon's rising and setting so you can tell the kids what time to look

<http://www.astronomy.org/programs/seasons/>

Here are some resources for moon calendars to help your students track the moon

<http://users.ameritech.net/paulcarlisle/MoonCalendar.html>

<http://stardate.org/nightsky/moon/>

2. Split the class into 4 groups and have each group create a mural of one season so the classroom will have a mural of all four seasons. Keep the poster in the classroom to use and add after the SNC program

The Sky Above Post Visit

Stokes Nature Center

Grade 3

Core Curriculum Standard 1: Students will understand that the shape of the earth and the moon are spherical and that the Earth rotates on its axis to produce the appearance of the Sun and Moon moving through the sky.

Objectives: Students will...

Create a book review ideas on space travel, order of planets and what planets look in space, constellations, and general ideas of our solar system

Review the phases of the moon using their moon journals

Review what Earth looks like during each season

Materials: markers, crayons, butcher paper, pencils,
Optional- pictures of the moon's phases, photos of ellipses.

Lesson Plan

1. Create a magic school bus like story book about your class going into space (draw lots of pictures)
 - a. Things to prompt the students to think about for their books
 - i. How will they get to space? (With just a normal spaceship or something faster??)
 - ii. When traveling what order will they see things in?
 - iii. What planets will they see, what do the planets look like?
 - iv. What constellation will they visit? (what is the constellation's story)
 - b. brainstorm the story line, decide on number of illustration, break into groups and assign illustrations,
 - c. Collate illustration into a book
2. Break the class up into four groups have each group make a mural of what the earth looks like space each season (tilt of the earth and the position in the earth in its orbit) and then attach these murals to the mural create of the season's from the pre-visit
 - i. A link to help with seasons
<http://www.astronomy.org/programs/seasons/>
3. Using the students' moon journal add labels to their pictures (full, gibbous, half, new, waxing, waning) (if they have not observed the full cycle you pages can be added to complete the cycle if you wish) also add pages for ellipse.

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