



<p>Lesson Title:</p> <p>The Solar System: Up Close and Personal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Big Idea & Learning Objectives</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will learn the order of the planets in our solar system. 2. Students will understand that attributes of each planet and why they have those particular attributes 3. Students will create monologues that personify each planet. 4. Students will create a model of the inner and the outer planets using tableau. 5. Students will create a model of the entire solar system using tableau.
<p>Content Area & Arts Discipline:</p> <p>Science, Language Arts, & Theater</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Overview of the Lesson</u></p> <p>The teacher will review the order of the planets. The students will then be assigned a planet to research. The students will learn about the attributes of the planets. They will write a first person monologue as if they are that planet. They will describe their struggles as a planet, the things they are boastful about, etc. The students will then pick the best facial expressions, body language, and voice to personify their planet. Student will participate in the creation of the solar system through tableaux. They will remain frozen with the appropriate facial expression and body language until the teach “taps in” to their tableaux. Once they are tapped they will come to life and recite their monologue using the appropriate voice and actions.</p>
<p>Grade Level:</p> <p>Fourth or Fifth Grade</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Procedures</u></p> <p>Engaging Students (“The Hook”):</p> <p>The teacher will engage the students by showing them the common mnemonic device: My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas. Students will probably recognize this as the order of the planets.</p>

Proposed Time Frame:

2 hour (2 class periods)

Date Lesson Created:

January 2014 (Space Month)

Lesson Author:
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Building Knowledge:

The teacher will help the students to create a tree map that classifies the planets while explaining the that each of the planets orbits the sun. There are inner planets that are small and rocky. There are outer planets also known as the gas giants because they are swaddled in gas.

Modeling the Experience:

- The teacher will allow each student to read a brief passage about all of the planets. He/she will then allow the students to write down the names of three planets that they found the most interesting along with one reason why.
- The teacher will read each students top three as they finish and will assign them a planet to research.
- After gathering information about the plant, the students will write a monologue from the point of view of their planet. This monologue should personify all of the major attributes of the planet.
- The students will then think about their Actor's toolbox. They will choose facial expressions, body language, and voice that is suitable for their planet.
- After all of the students have finished, the teacher and students will perform two tableaux: one of the sun and the inner planets and another of the sun and the outer planets.
- The teacher will then explain to the students that she will be "tapping in" to their tableaux. When he/she taps a student, the student will come alive and perform the monologue written for the planet.
- Choose a model student who you feel would be good at this activity. Tell him/her to "freeze" and walk up subtly tap his/her shoulder. When you tap, he/she begins acting.
- Allow each student to practice this.
- Then create a giant tableaux showcasing all of the planets, and allow each of the students to have a chance to perform.

Applying Understanding:

- Students will research a planet and create a monologue to help them fully understand what the planet is like.
- Students will listen as other students perform their monologues to gain a full understanding of all of the planets.

<p>Room Requirements & Arrangement:</p> <p>classroom -large open space -uncluttered -carpet/rug</p>	<p>Opportunities for Reflection (Closing):</p> <p>•Students will write a brief one to three sentence description of each planet to explain what they learned during this activity.</p>
<p>Material Equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● smart board/chart paper and markers ● computers ● encyclopedias/books about planets 	<p>Assessing the Learning:</p> <p>The teacher will observe students as they work to analyze their understanding of the planets in our solar system.</p> <p>The teacher will grade student monologues and planet summaries.</p>
<p>Resources:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Standards & Principles</u></p> <p>State Content Standards:</p> <p>4f. Compare and contrast the physical characteristics of the planets (e.g. mass, surface gravity, distance from the sun, surface characteristics, moons.)</p> <p>Arts Standards:</p> <p>Theatre Arts</p> <p>MT1 Know and understand the creation of improvisations and scripted scenes based on personal experience, heritage, imagination, literature, and history. (CP, HC, C)</p> <p>MT1c Demonstrate how improvised dialogue and scenes are used to tell stories and create characters based on history, culture, literature, and everyday situations.</p> <p>MT2a Develop vocal, movement, and pantomime skills (external) to express the inner (internal) life of the character through improvisation and the rehearsal.</p>

Vocabulary:

- planets
- orbit
- tableaux
- voice, body, space, expression
- monologue
- first person
- personification

Principles of Universal Design for Learning:

- I. Provide Multiple Means of Representation
 - 2.5 Illustrate through multiple media.
 - 3.4 Maximize transfer and generalization
- II. Provide Multiple Means of Action and Expression
 - 6.3 Facilitate managing information and resources
 - 6.4 Enhance capacity for monitoring progress
- III. Provide Multiple means of engagement
 - 7.2 Optimize relevance, value, and authenticity.
 - 8.3 Foster collaboration and community.

Appendix

Extended Learning Activities:

Ways to Adapt:

--Masked Drama--have students create theatre masks that represent their planets to be worn during the performance (great for those introverted students)