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Lesson Title:

Blasting off into the Solar System

Subject Area:

Science, Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, Art

Grade Level:

k-6

Lesson Summary:

This lesson will enable the students to learn about the Planets in the Solar system using the Encarta and Grolier Encyclopedia. The students will also use the Internet to access information from web sites. The students will review the school web site to access book reviews and to write their own. Finally, the students will create a class presentation on one of the planets.

Objective/Content Standard/Benchmark:

To utilize computer technology for hands-on research. To analyze relevant information to create a class presentation. To use critical thinking skills and to write a book review.

Approximate Time Needed:

Three weeks

Prerequisite Skills:

The student should know how to use Encarta Encyclopedia, Grolier Encyclopedia, and the Internet to access information. The student should know how to use Microsoft Word to create a document including formatting and editing text. Also, the student should be able to create presentations using Microsoft Power Point. Furthermore, the student should be able to design various documents using Publisher 98.

Materials and Resources Required:

Technology:

Computer, printer, Microsoft software: Word, Publisher, Encarta, Power Point, Excel, and Internet access. Computer, printer, Microsoft software: Word, Publisher, Encarta, Power Point, Excel, and Internet access.

Printed Materials:

Student Activity Sheets "Characteristics of the Planets" and "Planet Research Form" Daily Planet Newsletter Resource Books Trade Books

Supplies:

Index cards, pencil, paper

Others:

Procedures:

1. The instructor will introduce the unit using the Power Point Slide show. 2. In cooperative learning groups, students will complete the "Characteristics of the Nine Planets" activity sheet using Encarta 98 Encyclopedia, Grolier Encyclopedia, and the Internet. 3. Upon completion of the student activity sheet, students will choose a planet to research and take notes on using the "Planet Research Form". 4. Students will select a book from their research to evaluate and write a book review using web site template. 5. Students will access school web site for more research sources. 6. Students will individually create a presentation for the class using the following: Microsoft Power Point Slide Show Microsoft Publisher 98 Newsletter Microsoft Publisher 98 Brochure A book created on Microsoft Word An oral presentation

Modifications for Differentiated Instruction:

For the special needs student:

Special needs student will pair up with a partner for research and development of presentation.

For the gifted student:

The gifted students will pair up with a partner to compare and contrast two planets

Student Assessment:

Rubric for presentation, peer evaluation, self evaluation

Lesson Evaluation:

Observation of students and checklist of objectives mastered

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