Solar System Summaries

Grade Level: 6th
Time: 2 Hours

Overview
The teacher will assign students into groups of 3 that will research a particular planet in the solar system. They will gather enough information to write a detailed summary about the planet. The will ask groups to post their summaries on slapastory.com so the entire class can read them. Each group will vote on which summary is the best, and the teacher will give the winning team 5 points extra credit.

Objective
Using resources such as the Internet and books, teachers will ask the students to work in groups to write a thorough summary about a specific planet they are assigned to. The teacher must explain how summary will include details like size, features, position, and much more. The students must then read and vote on the summaries of the other planets. They will be responsible for knowing information about every planet for the upcoming quiz given by the teacher.

Standards
6.3.1 - Compare and contrast the size, composition, and surface features of the planets that comprise the solar system, as well as the objects orbiting them. Explain that the planets, except Pluto, move around the sun in nearly circular orbits.
6.3.2 - Observe and describe that planets change their position relative to the background of stars.

Materials
Pen, paper, computer, Internet connection

Procedure
1. The teacher will assign students to groups of 3.
2. The teacher will randomly assign a group one planet in the solar system. If needed, planets can be researched by more than one group.
3. The groups will learn as much as they can about their assigned planet. (1 hour)
4. The teacher will explain how they will have to write a detailed summary over what they have researched. The summary must include facts about the size, position, general features, and other relevant information. (30 minutes)
5. The teacher will assign one member of each group to create an account on www.slapastory.com in order to post the summary.
6. The summary will be posted under the “Non-fiction” genre.
7. Every student must read all of the summaries and vote on which one he or she believes is the best.
1. At the beginning of the following class, the teacher will announce the winners, and they will receive 5 points extra credit.

Evaluation
The teacher will evaluate each group based on accuracy, grammar, organization, time management, and the slapastory post.

References
www.slapastory.com
http://www.indianastandards.org/standard.asp?Subject=sci&Grade=6&Standard=3
# Solar System Summary Group Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accuracy</strong></td>
<td>The summary is accurate and detailed.</td>
<td>The summary is detailed, but not all facts are accurate.</td>
<td>The summary is vague and many facts are not accurate.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization</strong></td>
<td>The summary is organized and easy to read.</td>
<td>The summary is mostly organized but difficult to read at some parts.</td>
<td>The summary is very confusing and hard to read.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grammar</strong></td>
<td>There are no grammar errors.</td>
<td>There are few grammar errors.</td>
<td>There are several grammar errors.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time Management</strong></td>
<td>The group completed all task on time.</td>
<td>The group completed most tasks on time.</td>
<td>The group did not complete the tasks on time.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Slapastory Post</strong></td>
<td>The summary was successfully posted with no errors.</td>
<td>There were a few problems with posting the summary, but they were resolved.</td>
<td>The summary was not successfully posted online.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total __/15