

## **Teacher:**

Sharon Folds

## **Lesson Plan Title:**

Exploring the Universe – A Digital Story

## **Grade:**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade

## **Subject:**

Science

## **Introduction:**

This lesson is part of a unit that explores current scientific views of the universe and how those views evolved. Students will specifically focus on gathering information about our solar system to compare and contrast the planets. Students will identify unique characteristics of each planet and calculate their size relative to Earth. Students will use the media center resources to complete their research. They will present their findings in the form of a digital story. Students will be provided a digital resource kit with images and audio and a storyboard template to organize their information. Prior knowledge includes ability to locate and assess information, and create digital stories using Microsoft Movie Maker.

## **Georgia Performance Standard:**

**S6E1. Students will explore current scientific views of the universe and how those views evolved.**

c. Compare and contrast the planets in terms of

- Size relative to the earth
- Surface and atmospheric features
- Relative distance from the sun
- Ability to support life

## **Standards for the 21st Century Learner:**

2.1.4 Use technology and other information tools to analyze and organize information.

2.1.6 Use the writing process, media and visual literacy, and technology skills to create products that express new understandings.

3.1.4 Use technology and other information tools to organize and display knowledge and understanding in ways that others can view, use, and assess.

## **Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to identify unique characteristics about the sun and each planet.
2. Students will be able to calculate the size of each planet in relation to Earth.
3. Students will understand how each planet compares in size.
4. Students will be able to create a multimedia presentation using Microsoft Movie Maker Software.

## **Duration:**

4-5 days

## **Materials Needed:**

- Computers
- Microsoft Movie Maker Software
- Internet Access
- Media Center Resources
- Calculators
- Storyboard template
- Digital Resource kit with audio and images
- LCD projector and screen

## **Essential Questions:**

- How are the planets in our solar system different?
- What are the sizes of the planets in our solar system?
- How do the sizes of the planets compare to the size of Earth?
- How can digital resources be used to present ideas?

## **Procedures:**

1. I will review the digital resource kit to assure it is complete.
2. I will schedule time in the media center and computer lab for students to complete their research and create their digital story.
3. I will ask students “Who Am I?” questions to create interest in the topic. (Questions will be unique characteristics about various planets.)
4. I will ask students to list the planets in order from smallest to largest. Students will compare this list to their findings.
5. I will outline the project and provide students with a rubric and a black storyboard.
6. I will preview the resource kit with the students.
7. Students will research the planets and identify unique characteristics and size of each.
8. Students will calculate the size of each planet in relationship to Earth.
9. Students will organize their information on a storyboard.

10. Students will submit their completed storyboards for my review.
11. I will review each storyboard and provide feedback.
12. Students will create a digital story using Microsoft Movie Maker.
13. Students will edit their digital story using the rubric.
14. Students will present their digital story to the class using a LCD projector.
15. I will assess the digital stories using a rubric.

## **Assessment:**

A rubric will be used to assess student's storyboards and digital stories.