

Lesson Plan

Title: Planets in Orbit

Goal/Description: The purpose of this activity is to review the planets in our solar system and provide an opportunity for students to share what they have learned by creating rap songs about a specific planet.

Developmental Rationale: Students in middle school are in the realistic and pseudorealistic stages in their artistic development. Therefore, this activity will help the students enhance their awareness by emphasizing the physical characteristics of the planets and finding creative ways to depict them through poetry, in the form of a rap verse, and illustrations.

Standards: National Visual Arts Standards: **Content Standard #6.** Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines. DC Visual Arts Standards: **2.** Apply artistic processes and skills in a variety of media to communicate meaning and intent in original works of art. (Production and Creative Expression) **5.** Connect and apply what is learned in the visual arts to other art forms, subject areas, visual culture and communications and to careers (Connections, Relationships, Applications) DC Science Standards: **5.4.1.**

Describe that, like all planets and stars, the Earth is approximately spherical in shape.

6.3.1. Recognize that the solar system consists of the Earth, moon, sun, eight generally recognized other planets that orbit the sun and their satellites, and smaller objects, such as asteroids and comets.

Big Ideas: Physical characteristics of the planets vary from size, color, and other physical properties. These characteristics can be described using rap verses with elements of poetry.

Objective/Outcomes: Students will learn the physical characteristics of each planet and then do a group activity that involves writing a rap verse about a specific planet, placing it with an illustration on a poster board, and collaborating with the other teams to make a song.

Enduring Understandings: Rapping consists of a variety of poetic styles that could assist students in retaining information. My delving into the creative process of writing their own rap verses, the students will be able to gain a better understanding of the physical characteristic of the planets in the solar system.

Essential Questions: What planet do we live on? What are some of the physical characteristics of our planet? What are some other planets in our solar system? How the planets similar? How are they different?

Key Knowledge/Skills: Declarative Knowledge – The physical characteristics of the planets in our solar system can be conveyed using rap verses to describe their distinctive properties. **Procedural Knowledge** – The students will review the planets in our solar system and discuss each planets physical characteristics. Afterwards, the students will be

placed in teams and create a rap verse based on a specific planet. Next, they will develop an illustration of this planet and then present their verses to the class using the same beat.

Evaluation/Assessment: Formative - The students will participate in a discussion related to the planets of our solar system and then describe on the planet's characteristics using the art of rapping, as well as, an illustration. Their performances will be measured by their abilities to work with a partner to accomplish these tasks. **Summative** - Group discussion; creating a rap verse; creating an illustration of the planet; presentation

Materials/Teacher Resources: Promethean ActivBoard, computer, Powerpoint presentation, paper, poster board, pencil, markers, colored pencils, crayons, Hip Hop instrumental

Teaching Procedure/Time Allotted: 3 days

Pre-assessment: Warm-up discussion, "What planet do we live on?"

Intro/Motivational Dialogue: Today, we are going to review the planets in our solar system by talking about their physical properties and then we will team up to write a rap verse related to these characteristics. Eventually, each team will join in on a song using a Hip Hop instrumental in the background.

Demonstration: The teacher will discuss physical characteristics of each planet and recite an example of a rap verse from previous projects.

Work Period: *Day 1:* After the discussion, the teacher will provide a Powerpoint presentation that describes the physical characteristics of each planet. The class will then be divided in teams of 2, using cooperative learning technique that would assist in forming groups. This would be done by having each student pick a card from a basket that has the name of a planet. Once the teams are formed, they will get together, review their notes on the planets, and then write a rap verse that describes its characteristics. *Day 2:* The students will get together and draw an illustration of their planets. They are required to have a first draft on paper, followed by the final draft on a poster board. *Day 3:* The teacher will play a Hip Hop instrumental in the classroom, while each team practices reciting their verses. After several rehearsals, the teacher will bring all the teams together to create perform the rap song, while holding up their illustrations.

Clean-Up: The students are responsible for cleaning up after each session. Part of their evaluation will be based on their ability to practice teamwork and demonstrate collective responsibility.

Closure: Once the students have completed their rap verses and illustration, they will have a review discussion.

Plans for Differentiating Instruction: Several students may have difficulty finding words that rhyme; therefore, a rhyming dictionary will be available in the classroom. Also, there may be some students who will be frustrated with their illustrations if, for

instance, the planet is not a perfect sphere. The teacher will provide several spherical objects that could be traced to alleviate this issue. Any other issues that occur will be handled accordingly.