



## South Carolina Academic/Career Development Integration Activity (DRAFT)

**Title**            **A Celestial Trip (S-5)**  
**Subject**        **Science**

**Grade Level(s)**    **8**

**SC Content Standard** – Astronomy: Earth and Space Systems – Grade 8.  
Standard 8-4. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics, structure, and predictable motions of celestial bodies. (Earth Science)  
8-4.1. Summarize the characteristics and movements of objects in the solar system (including planets, moons, asteroids, comets, and meteors).

### **National Career Development Guidelines Goal/Indicator**

Personal Social Development GOAL PS2. Develop positive interpersonal skills including respect for diversity.

Indicator PS2.A4. Demonstrate the ability to get along well with others and work effectively with them in groups.

### **Career Development Objectives**

1. Students will understand the characteristics and structure of celestial bodies.
2. Students will learn effective ways to work in a group to complete a project.

### **Assessment**

1. Students will create a travel brochure for a trip to the moon or a planet in Earth's solar system. The brochure will summarize the key characteristics and structure of the celestial body.
2. Students will identify ways to work effectively with others to complete a group project.
3. Students will complete the *Working in Groups – Self-Reflection* worksheet.

### **Preparation**

- Prior Learning—Instruction on space systems
- Handouts/Worksheets—*Ten Tips for Working in a Group* handout, *Working in Groups Self-Reflection* worksheet, *Celestial Trip Brochure Project Outline* handout
- Resources/Materials—textbook, resource books, supplies to create the brochures, access to the Internet and the library
- Time Required—2-3 class periods and homework

## **Procedures**

### **Part One**

- Through this activity, students will review and summarize what they learned about the characteristics and structure of celestial bodies. They will experience working on a team to complete a project.
- Assign students to groups of four. Give students a copy of the *Ten Tips for Working in a Group* handout and briefly discuss it with them.
- Introduce the activity by telling students to imagine that it is some time in the future and interplanetary travel is a common thing. Favorite vacation spots include the moon and planets in the Earth's solar system. The students are celestial travel agents. They will work as a team to design a travel brochure to a planet or the moon. The brochure will highlight the characteristics and structure of their destination, how far it is from Earth, and describe the "attractions." Encourage students to base the brochure on facts, but to also use their imaginations and be creative.
- Give students time to create their brochures.
- Remind students they are to work with all members of their group to design the brochure.
- After the brochures are completed, have each group give a brief "sales" presentation to the class using their group's brochure to highlight the features of their celestial body destination.
- Optional: display the brochures on the class bulletin board.

### **Part Two—Career Development Connections**

- Engage students in a discussion about how they worked together to design the brochure. Suggested discussion questions:
  - What was helpful in getting the job done? What was not helpful?
  - Did everyone in the group participate?
  - What kinds of occupations require people to work together?
  - Is being able to get along with others important on most jobs?
- Have students complete the *Working in Groups – Self-Reflection* worksheet.
- Optional: Invite a travel agent or graphic designer to speak to you class.

## **Crosswalks**

### **SC Career Guidance Standard/Competency**

Learning to Work Standard 4. Students will demonstrate a positive attitude toward work and the ability to work together.

Competency 4.2. Translate the importance of interpersonal relationships and demonstrate positive interaction with others.

### **Key Employability Skills**

Thinking Skills—Reasoning, creative thinking, decision-making

Interpersonal Skills—Works well on a team, contributes to group effort

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## *Celestial Trip Brochure Project Outline*

Group Members:

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Directions: Use this outline to create a travel brochure for a trip to the moon or a planet in Earth's solar system. Your brochure should include information on each of the topics listed below. Use at least three resources to research your information. Use your imagination and be creative in your brochure! Have fun!

1. Travel destination (e.g., Mars) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Key characteristics of the celestial body (e.g., size, gaseous state, distance from Earth, temperature, etc.).
3. Special attractions and features (e.g., Saturn's rings, points of interest, historic facts, special services provided such as "designer" space suits for site-seeing).
4. Cite your research resources below. Use at least three resources.

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