



Lesson: Lunar Formation Skits

Grade level: 3+

Activity duration: 30 - 60 minutes

Objectives:

1. Given information cards, students will work in small groups to creatively (and dramatically) summarize one stage of the moon's formation.
2. Students will work together to use provided resources to determine appropriate order of lunar formation.
3. Groups of students will present their information.
4. Students will demonstrate respectful listening skills during classmates' presentations.

Materials:

- NASA Poster: *How our Moon Formed*
- Lunar formation information cards
- Props and/or costumes (*optional, provided by teacher*)

Context:

This activity can be used as an introduction to the Moon, or to introduce the study of lunar rocks.

Lesson Procedure:

1. Explain to students that they will be learning about the moon over the course of the next few days, and ask students what they already know about the moon to assess prior knowledge. Clarify misconceptions as they present.
2. Introduce the Lunar Formation Skit activity. Tell students they are going to be the teachers for this first topic: Moon formation. Explain that you will divide them into groups and give each group an information card that will explain some step in the process of the moon's formation; the information cards will represent different "scenes" in the play. It will be their "mission" to come up with a 2-3 minute dramatic representation of the information on the card. Define what "dramatic representation" should look like (*this depends on what your goals and expectations are for this activity*). Allot an amount of time the students will have to complete this task (5-15 minutes depending on the students'

enthusiasm and ability to focus). Tell students after they finish they should consult the NASA moon formation poster to determine in what order they will present.

3. Direct students' attention to location of props, if available.
4. Divide students into appropriate size groups and assign information cards. If necessary, assign more than one information card per group. Direct student groups to separate areas to “rehearse” their scene.
5. Check-in with individual groups over the next 5-15 minutes to assure they understand the information card and the task at hand. Near the end of rehearsal time check with students that they know what order they will present in.
6. Give students appropriate time reminders.
7. Gather students back together and ask students what a respectful audience looks like.
8. Introduce each scene and have students present. At the end of each scene applaud and clarify if necessary.
9. *Optional: to assess students' understanding, have them draw a comic strip or write a story that describes the different steps of our moon's formation.*