

**STAGE 1 – DESIRED RESULTS**

*Grade Level: 5*

**Unit Title: The Solar System**

**Established Goals: Science MA. 1.13 – “The students will recognize that the Earth is part of a system called the solar system that includes the Sun( a star), planets and many moons. The Earth is the third planet from the Sun in our solar system”**

**Understandings:**

- The Sun is the center of our solar system and all elements orbit it  
Each element has a unique position within the Solar System  
Each element can be described and organized based upon its size, distance, composition and orbit

**Essential Question:**

**\* What makes Earth special within our Solar System?**

**Common Core Standards**

- Reading Informational Text – RI 5.4 – determine the meaning of general academic domain specific words
- Writing/Text types and purposes – W 5.2 – write informative texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly
- Writing/Production Distribution of writing – W 5.5 – with guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing and rewriting
- Writing/Production and Distribution of writing – W 5.6 – with some support and guidance from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others

**STAGE 2 – ASSESSMENT EVIDENCE**

**Performance Tasks:**

Project Based Learning – students will work in pairs and research an element of the Solar System. Pairs will be assigned by the teacher, and the students will mark 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choices of elements to research. Elements will then be assigned. The pairs will create a profile of their element, answering 10 key questions. They will conduct research in the classroom as well as time in the Media Center. Upon completion of the research project, student pairs will then create a VoiceThread on the internet. This VoiceThread will be accessible to their peers and teacher. Students will listen, take notes and comment on each VoiceThread. The information provided by the students doing the research will be assessed based upon the Element Research Report Rubric. Students will also be assessed on the responses they give to their peers’ research VoiceThreads.

**Other Evidence:**

Upon introduction of the unit – students will brainstorm and create a MindMap, highlighting prior knowledge of the Solar System. This will be done as a class using the SmartBoard. The teacher will monitor student participation.

Students will create a mnemonic device to aid them in remembering the order of the planets within our Solar Sytem.

Key vocabulary words at the end of each section within the class text book will be studied and the students will be quizzed.

### STAGE 3 – LEARNING PLAN

#### Summary of Learning Activities:

- 1- Assessing and building upon prior knowledge – Creating a MindMap of what they know about the Solar System, building a Word Wall using key vocabulary terms from the class textbook. (A vocabulary quiz will be given at the end of the chapter to determine comprehension of key terms)
- 2- Content delivery – students will read aloud from informative texts – the class text book and informational texts/reading hand-outs provided by the teacher. This will be done in groups to allow for discussion and note taking
- 3- Project Based Learning – Complete an element research project. Prior to completion, students will be given the chance to peer edit and revise. Research project will then be uploaded into the VoiceThread program – as either a written project or done orally.
- 4- Reflections – listening to and commenting on their peers VoiceThreads will allow for additional student questioning, revisions and comments. Note taking can be done with a graphic organizer to ensure key information is recorded
- 5- Upon completion of VoiceThreads – a second MindMap will be created within the classroom, allowing students to further build upon their knowledge of the Solar System