

Comparing the Earth and the Moon

Lesson Overview: While learning about the Earth and the moon, students will compare and contrast physical characteristics of these bodies.

Lesson Tie to Textbook: Harcourt, 5th grade edition, ©2000.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes: Students will research, compare and contrast the physical characteristics of the Earth and the moon.

Ties to National Standards:

National Science 5-8.4: Earth and Space Science

As a result of activities in grades 5-8, all students should develop an understanding of:

- Earth in the solar system.

Ties to Texas State Standards:

(5.12) Science concepts. The student knows that the natural world includes earth materials and objects in the sky.

- (C) Identify the physical characteristics of the Earth and compare them to the physical characteristics of the moon.

Grade Level: 5

Subject Area: Science: Physical Science: Solar System

Software Used: FreeWrite, PiCoMap Pro, FlingIt

Materials Needed: Any standards-based science textbook, handheld computers with correct software, and additional reference material (if necessary).

Ties to Overall Unit: While learning about the relationship between the Earth and the moon, students identify and explain the differences and similarities between the two.

Vocabulary: Earth, moon, craters, weathering, water, surface

Teaching the Lesson

1. Introducing the Lesson:

- a. Have students discuss why we cannot currently live on the moon.
- b. Have them consider these questions: What enables us to live comfortably on the Earth? What is the moon lacking that prevents us from living there?

2. Conducting the Lesson:

- a. Introduce students to the unique physical characteristics of both the Earth and the moon.
- b. Allow students to investigate further, looking up information on the physical characteristics of the Earth and the moon. Students can record their notes for



- future reference using FreeWrite, or they can use FlingIt to make an off-line copy of the site and its information.
- c. Using their notes, students will create PiCoMap Pro concept maps depicting the differences and similarities between the moon and the Earth.

3. Concluding the Lesson:

- a. Collect the students' work.
- b. Allow a few students to share their findings with their classmates.
- c. Encourage students to keep their maps for future reference.

Reflecting on the Lesson

1. Issues to Consider:

- a. Make sure students sync often to back up their work properly.
- b. Students must be familiar with creating concept maps.

Assessment: In assessing each PiCoMap Pro concept map, consider the following:

- Does the map contain accurate information regarding the differences and similarities between the Earth and the moon?
- Did the student put forth his or her best effort?

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