

About the Activity

Earth, Sun and Moon is a three hour session, which can also be split into two hour-and-a-half sessions. In the first part of the session, after a short introduction, pupils are invited into the “Starlab” Planetarium, to explore the Solar System and the Galaxy. For the second part of the session, the pupils return to the ICT lab to consider the conditions on other planets and to design a being that could survive the conditions on Mars, using computer based animation software.

Activity Aims

The aim of this activity is to:

- Learn about the Solar System and the properties of, and conditions on, each of its planets.
- Study the night sky and be introduced to some constellations and their histories.
- Learn about and consider the conditions on other planets.
- Consider adaptations of organisms and use this knowledge to design a being that could survive in conditions different to those on Earth.
- Use computer based animation software to produce a short video.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the activity, participants will have:

- Increased their knowledge of the night sky and histories associated with it.
- Increased their understanding of the solar system and the planets within it.
- Considered the different environments of the planets in the solar system.
- Used computer based animation software to produce a short video.

Progression Opportunities

Some participants may also:

- Have a greater understanding of the mechanisms which power stars.
- Produce a detailed animation with numerous slides.
- Have a greater understanding of some adaptations required to live in a hostile environment.

In addition, participants should also have developed in the following:

- Presentation and ICT skills

Associated Vocabulary:

- Words relating to biology e.g. adaptation, habitat
- Words relating to the night sky e.g. constellation, star, sun
- Words relating to the solar system e.g. planet, moon, satellite
- Words related to safety e.g. risk assessment, procedure
- Words related to the environment e.g. atmosphere, temperature, condition