



## **Inquiry Unit:** Design Your Own Planet

**Unit Objective:** Participants will learn facts about planets in our solar system. They will then create a painting of one of the planets and have time to design their own unique planet.

### **Creativity Component:**

**Inspiration:** Participants will be inspired by astronomy and the night sky. Inspiration may happen through videos, non-fiction texts, or online telescope pictures such as those in the Hubble Site gallery <http://hubblesite.org/images/gallery>. Participants will discuss the similarities and differences between the appearance of planets and explore what might cause certain planets to have certain appearances (i.e. made of mostly water vs. made of mostly rock, distance from the sun, size, etc.). Participants can also compare watercolor artwork with astronomy photos to observe how the gases in outer space photograph similarly to watercolors on paper.

**Iteration:** Participants will make revisions and alter drawing/painting techniques to improve final results.

**Innovation:** Participants will make a unique representation of a planet in the night sky as well as design their own unique planet..

**Materials Needed:** Heavy weight paper, watercolor paint, pencils.

**Differentiation Activities:** Students will be lead through the activity with consideration given to age and abilities. Students that require additional assistance will be guided through the process.

**Assessment of Unit Objective:** Participants will write 2-3 facts about their planet onto the back of their paintings. They will paint a representation of their chosen planet or moon phases. They will fill in the background with features inspired by the study of astronomy.

### **Primary Grade Levels Supported:**

FA TEKS	SCIENCE TEKS
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade: 2.2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade: 2.8
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade: 3.2	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade: 3.8
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade: 4.2	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade: 5.8
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade: 5.2	

**Reflection/Take Home Learning Ideas:** Continue to learn about other planets and find resources at home or in the classroom to make the other planetary artwork. Participants could cut out circles and color all the planets then hang them from a clothing hanger to make a mobile or they could illustrate the planets as they appear around the sun.

Planet #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Planet #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Both

Astronomy Photographs

Both

Watercolor Paintings

