



Reading and Writing Assignments

Sub-Unit 1, Information Literacy

Sub-unit overview: Explore how to find the best sources for targeted research.

4 Lessons

Lesson	Reading	Writing
1: Evaluating Sources: Part 1	NOAA website ; Earth and Planetary Science, University of California, Berkeley website ; Marine Life Protection Act, Wikipedia ; The Ocean Foundation website ; Missouri Botanical Garden website ; The Guardian	
2: Evaluating Sources: Part 2	NASA website ; MIT News website ; CNN ; Terravivos website	Which of the four sources (discussed in class) do you think is the most dependable? Which source do you think is the least dependable? Support your thinking using evidence from one or more of the websites.
3: Avoiding Plagiarism		
4: Flex Day 1	Teacher choice: Activities to support a range of skills, determined by student need	Teacher choice: Grammar, Revision Assignments, and Writing Prompts determined by student need

Sub-Unit 2: Scavenger Hunt and Internet Research

Sub-unit overview: Race to find the answer in primary and secondary source texts.

4 Lessons



Lesson	Reading	Writing
<p>1: Scavenger Hunt: Introducing the Collection</p>	<p>The Space Race Collection: "The Space Race: An Introduction;" "Sputnik" from <i>Rocket Boys</i>; "And a Dog Shall Lead Them" from <i>A Ball, A Dog, and a Monkey</i>; Memorandum for the Vice President; President Kennedy's Address at Rice University, September 12, 1962; "A Seagull in Flight" from <i>Into That Silent Sea</i>; "First to Fly" from <i>Into That Silent Sea</i>; "In Event of Moon Disaster;" Preface from <i>Flight: My Life in Mission Control</i>; "Buzz Aldrin on His Lunar Home, the Eagle" from <i>The Wall Street Journal</i></p> <p>Solo: "Sputnik" from <i>Rocket Boys</i>;</p>	
<p>2: Scavenger Hunt: Exploring the Collection</p>	<p>The Space Race Collection: "Smooth as a Peeled Egg" from <i>Two Sides of the Moon: Our Story of the Cold War Space Race</i>; "Katherine Johnson: Trailblazer and Brilliant Mathematician;" "Life on Mars to Become a Reality in 2023, Dutch Firm Claims;" "What the Moon Rocks Tell Us;" "You Are Here;" "Dreaming of a Moonage" from <i>Moondust</i>;</p> <p>Solo: "Smooth as a Peeled Egg" from <i>Two Sides of the Moon: Our Story of the Cold War Space Race</i>; Preface from <i>Flight: My Life in Mission Control</i>; "And a Dog Shall Lead Them" from <i>A Ball, A Dog, and a Monkey</i>;</p> <p>EXTRA: "Stars" by Robert Frost</p>	<p>Optional: Using details from the image, describe why you think the piece is titled <i>Sky Garden (Stoned Moon)</i>.</p> <p>EXTRA: Writing Prompt 1 (Informative): What tone (attitude) does the speaker in "Stars" communicate toward the stars? Support your answer by analyzing at least two phrases or images in the poem.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 (Informative): Compare and contrast the way Gagarin and Frost describe the stars in "First to Fly" and "Stars." What feelings does each writer convey through his descriptions? Use evidence from both texts to support your thinking.</p>

8F: The Space Race Collection

Planning for the Unit



<p>3: Internet Research</p>	<p>Solo: "President Kennedy's Address at Rice University, September 12, 1962" EXTRA: "The Eve of War" from <i>The War of the Worlds</i> by H.G. Wells</p>	<p>Write one or two paragraphs. State your research question as a claim at the beginning of the first paragraph. Include evidence from your sources.</p> <p>EXTRA: Writing Prompt 1 (Informative): <i>The War of the Worlds</i> is an 1898 science fiction novel about Martians invading Earth. Explain how Wells's opening paragraphs create a feeling of suspense. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 (Informative): Man has been dreaming of space travel for hundreds of years. Compare and contrast the tone (attitude) toward space travel in <i>The War of the Worlds</i> and "The Space Race: An Introduction." Use evidence from both texts to support your thinking.</p>
<p>4: Flex Day 2</p>	<p>Teacher choice: Activities to support a range of skills, determined by student need</p>	<p>Teacher choice: Grammar, Revision Assignments, and Writing Prompts determined by student need</p>

Sub-Unit 3: Space Blogs and Collection Research

Sub-unit overview: Research and write about the experiences of cosmonauts and astronauts during the Space Race.
4 Lessons

Lesson	Reading	Writing
<p>1: Space Blogs: Lesson 1</p>	<p>The Space Race Collection; "Buzz Aldrin on His Lunar Home, the Eagle" from <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> Solo: Students review self-selected images and texts from The Space Race Collection</p>	
<p>2: Space Blogs: Lesson</p>	<p>The Space Race Collection; "You Are Here" from <i>Pale Blue Dot</i>; "First to Fly" from <i>Into That Silent Sea</i></p>	<p>In character, write at least three blog entries describing your experiences and feelings during your mission. Use the information on your Space Card and your Research Chart to help craft your writing.</p>



<p>3: Collection Research</p>	<p>The Space Race Collection Solo: Students review self-selected images and texts from The Space Race Collection</p> <p>EXTRA: Chapter 36 "Nixon: Vietnam, China, and Watergate" from <i>A History of US 10: All the People Since 1945</i> by Joy Hakim</p>	<p>EXTRA: Writing Prompt 1 (Informative): Use information from "Nixon: Vietnam, China, and Watergate" to create an outline of America's race to space.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 (Informative): Choose two details from "Nixon: Vietnam, China, and Watergate" that relate to the photograph "1971: James Irwin, American flag, lunar module, and lunar rover." Explain the connection by describing details from the text and the photograph.</p>
<p>4: Flex Day 3</p>	<p>Teacher choice: Activities to support a range of skills, determined by student need</p>	<p>Teacher choice: Grammar, Revision Assignments, and Writing Prompts determined by student need</p>

Sub-Unit 4: Socratic Seminar and Internet Research

Sub-unit overview: What else do you want to know about astronauts, cosmonauts, or the Space Race? Investigate your questions in an open class discussion.

4 Lessons

Lesson	Reading	Writing
<p>1: Preparing for the Socratic Seminar</p>	<p>The Space Race Collection</p>	
<p>2: Conducting the Socratic Seminar</p>	<p>The Space Race Collection Solo: "In Event of Moon Disaster"</p>	
<p>3: Discuss: Internet Research</p>	<p>The Space Race Collection Solo: "Preface from <i>Flight: My Life in Mission Control</i>;" "First to Fly" from <i>Into That Silent Sea</i></p>	<p>Write one or two paragraphs. State your research question as a claim at the beginning of the first paragraph. Include relevant evidence that you selected and analyzed from your sources that conveys an answer to your research question.</p>
<p>4: Flex Day 4</p>	<p>Teacher choice: Activities to support a range of skills, determined by student need <i>The Space Race Collection</i></p>	<p>Teacher choice: Grammar, Revision Assignments, and Writing Prompts determined by student need</p>



Sub-Unit 5: Write an Essay

Students spend six lessons researching and writing a five-paragraph essay. This lesson sequence reinforces skills learned in earlier units including writing a compelling introduction and a strong conclusion. Students also learn how to create in-text citations, frames for quotes, and a Works Cited Page.

The unit concludes with a media project and presentation. Students will create an interactive timeline. This project requires students to revisit their research to find relevant information for the timeline.

8 Lessons

Lesson	Reading	Writing
1: Gathering Evidence	The Space Race Collection	<p>Essay Prompt: Research Option 1: Was animal testing necessary during the Space Race? Research and discover what the Soviets and the Americans were trying to understand when they sent animals into space. Was animal testing necessary? Was it fair or moral to send animals into space for research purposes? Could the scientists have found the answers they were looking for without sacrificing animals? If so, how?</p> <p>Research sources in the Collection and on the Internet as you collect evidence and prove your case. Write an argumentative essay persuading your reader of your way of thinking. Be sure to include a list of the resources you used in your research.</p> <p>Research Option 2: How did Katherine Johnson and the other women who worked with her at NASA impact the Space Race? Write an informative essay about Katherine Johnson and the other key women who worked at NASA during the Space Race era. Who were the other key women who worked with Katherine Johnson and what roles did they play? What barriers did they face? How was the Space Race impacted by their work?</p>
2: Making a Claim and Writing a Body Paragraph	The Space Race Collection	The essay lessons use daily revision to organize and improve writing, enabling students to build up to the final, finished essay.
3: Writing a Body Paragraph and an Introduction	The Space Race Collection	The essay lessons use daily revision to organize and improve writing, enabling students to build up to the final, finished essay.



4: Revising and Writing a Conclusion	The Space Race Collection	The essay lessons use daily revision to organize and improve writing, enabling students to build up to the final, finished essay.
5: Finishing and Editing the Essay	The Space Race Collection	The essay lessons use daily revision to organize and improve writing, enabling students to build up to the final, finished essay.
6: Creating Citations and a Works Cited List	The Space Race Collection	The essay lessons use daily revision to organize and improve writing, enabling students to build up to the final, finished essay.
7: Media Project		
8: Timeline Presentations		