

Constellation Research using Google Search Features

Overview: Students will use good key word choice and evaluate the credibility of sources as they research. Students will choose a constellation to research. Their research should include, but is not limited to:

- Diagram of the constellation
- The location of this constellation in relation to other constellations.
- The best season and location to view this constellation from earth.
- Some fascinating facts about the constellation.
- A list of at least three major stars or objects in this constellation and give an interesting fact about each one. (Such as: type of star/object, distance from earth, magnitude, color or surface temperature)
- Retell the legend associated with this constellation in your own words.

Materials:

- Access to internet

Instructions in use of Google Search tools:

- Keyword choice. [The Art of Keyword Choice](#) Show this video in its entirety. Pause and discuss as a class.
- Identify Credible Sources.
 - The teacher should preview this video. It is too long and “dry” for student use, but gives good background. [Checking Your Facts](#)
- Key concepts:
 - Ranking is not credibility
 - Search terms impact the flavor of results
 - Reading a web address to help assess a page
 - Add to this the use of .org, .gov, and .edu as more credible than .com
 - Look for scientific websites (NASA, NOVA, etc.)
 - Using time filtering to help confirm facts

Students will collect research over the course of approximately one week’s time. Students will then use steps in the writing process to draft, revise, edit, and publish their research. (1-2 weeks)

Resources:

- 5th grade text for general instruction regarding constellations and objects in deep space.
- These are some good sites that can be demonstrations of credible sources:
- List of Constellations and links to information: (keywords: constellations facts—this is the first edu site listed.) http://www.astro.wisc.edu/~dolan/constellations/constellation_list.html
- Ask an Astronomer http://coolcosmos.ipac.caltech.edu/cosmic_kids/AskKids/sun.shtml
- NASA <http://nasa.gov>
- Stellarium: <http://www.stellarium.org/>

- WorldWide Telescope: <http://www.worldwidetelescope.org/Home.aspx>
- Google Sky (available as part of Google Earth!):
<http://earth.google.com/intl/en/download-earth.html>

Rubric and Standards:

[Follow this link to an online rubric tied to CC standards](#)



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