

The TV Interview

This activity can be used as an introduction to a topic, and/or as a group assessment.

If using as an introduction, the interviewer and "guest" need a prepared script. In this case, the students have a model on which to base their own version.

Materials:

A "TV Screen" made from a cardboard box.

Props, such as a "microphone", a topical background, "costume" elements

Interview questions

Vital information sheet for guest interviewee.

(All these, except for the TV, can be prepared by the teams.)

Students work in teams of 4. Together they research their topic, and come up with 6-10 important things about their topic. These are the basis of their 10 interview questions, which will be reviewed by the teacher. They all must know the material, so that any of them could act as the guest.

Example:

The topic is the Solar System. Each group of students has been given a different planet to research. As a class, they have decided on certain essential information they should know about all planets: place in the solar system, size, period of rotation, # of satellites, etc. In their groups they have researched the answers to these questions and found out additional "special" qualities of their planets.

The Interview:

Host: Good evening. Tonight we are very fortunate to have as our guest the planet Jupiter! We will be asking the planet how things are out there in the Solar System.

Greetings, Jupiter

Jupiter: Call me Jove.

H: OK, Jove. So, exactly where do you find yourself vis a vis the Sun?

J: Well, I am actually pretty far from the sun, oh around 778 million kilometers. I'm out there way past my little buddy, Mars. Yup, I'm the 5th planet out from the sun.

H: And how big are you?

J: Now, I'm glad you asked that! I am great big! My diameter at the equator is 140,000 kilometers! Compare that with Earth, which is just 12,800 kilometers in diameter.

H: Wow! Well how long are your days?

J: You know, I spin pretty darn fast. My rotation period is just about 10 hours. But it takes me almost 12 earth years to get all the way around the sun.

H: Do you have any moons?

J: Do I! I have at least 50 moons! Of course, my most famous ones are the 4 that Galileo saw through his telescope... If you look at me with binoculars on a clear night, you can see those moons yourself! But, the rest of them are smaller. Still, I have the most moons of any planet.

H: Is there anything else really special about you, Jove?

J: Well, how about my stormy temperament? My outer atmosphere is separated into bands at different latitudes. This makes it real stormy. One giant storm, like a cyclone, makes a huge red spot on my surface. I call it my "beauty mark". I am called a "gas giant" because I consist mainly of hydrogen and helium.

J: Well, let's hear it for our guest, Jupiter!

Assessment:

As the interview progresses, students record important facts. The host/guest team must have a minimum number of details, as previously decided.