**Exploring the Solar System (SEPUP)—Grade 6**

**Investigation 85: History of Space Exploration**

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**Big Idea:** Students will put major events in chronological order the history of space exploration.

**Hook:** Show the students a picture of space. Have students do a five minute free write of anything that

comes to the students mind. (They have to be writing nonstop for the five minutes.)

**Timing:** 45-50 minutes

**Materials Included:**

-Transparency of Space Exploration Timeline (with answers)

-Handout of Space Exploration Timeline (blank)

-Deck of Space Exploration Date Cards

-Deck of Event Cards

**Materials Not Included:**

-Overhead projector

**Necessary Prior Knowledge:**

-Should know key terms: satellite, telescope, space craft, and space exploration

**Lesson:**

-Give students Anticipation Guide: History of Space Exploration to fill out the before portion.

-Pass out the Event cards and Date cards to each group and give them 10-15 minutes to match

events and dates.

- Before giving the students the answers, assign each group an event to look up on the computer

to see if they were correct and then report back to the class.

-Display the overhead with the correct answers so students can see how they did. Answers that

students have correct they leave on the left side. If students didn’t get the answer correct, then have the students move the event card to the right side.

- Pass back the Anticipation Guide to see if students’ answers have changed.

**Suggested Adaptations/Improvements to the Procedure:**

-The lesson states to hand the event cards out ahead of time, but we wouldn’t pass them out

until we hooked them into the lesson.

**Reflection:**

-If you had to choose a planet in space to explore, which planet would you explore and why?

-Make a diary entry of your space exploration describing every detail.

**Suggestions for Lesson Extensions/Addenda:**

-Have students research the planet that they picked and make a planet poster with 5 facts and a

diagram of their planet.

-Write a persuasive essay either for or against space exploration.