The Study of the Universe Unit Task – Celestial Travel Agency
Space Travel Symposium

Our knowledge of space and astronomy has greatly increased since the first satellite was sent into orbit 50 years ago. Today, astronauts live and work on the International Space Station for six months at a time and space tourists blast off to experience a microgravity environment. Many scientists think that in the near future, travel into space for vacations will become commonplace. However, outer space is not hospitable for human habitation, and space travel remains dangerous and expensive. In order for space travel to become more common, scientists will have to figure out a way to make it safer, cheaper and faster.

**Purpose:** In this unit task you will be working for a space travel agency in the year 2216. You must advertise travel to a destination in space for space tourists. You will present your findings to the class in a short presentation.

**Your destination:**

1. Research the destination you selected. You must submit written notes with the answers to the questions.
   - What are the physical properties of the celestial object you are visiting?
   - How far away is it?
   - How long will the journey take? (you can use current technology as a reference point, although technology will no doubt be improved by 2216!)
   - What are the dangers involved in the journey? Health impacts?
   - What will be some of the physical challenges facing travelers on such a journey?
   - Have Canadian scientists contributed to research on the planet or star system being visited? If so how?
• What is the history of the planet/star system? How was it created? How old is it? How long have we known about it? What methods have humans used to study it?

• What fun activities will you have to keep your tourists entertained while travelling to your destination?

2. Design a logo for your company and include it in your video/presentation.

Assessment Checklist
Use the checklist to assess your own learning.

Knowledge & Understanding:
- Display a collection of data on the space travel destination
- Show an understanding of the physical properties and history of the destination

Thinking & Inquiry:
- Plan an advertising campaign and divide the workload accordingly with group members
- Show an understanding of how to find information on the Internet and evaluate the quality of information found.
- Show sources and references in a bibliography format

Communication:
- Use correct terminology and vocabulary regarding astronomy and space science.
- Present graphical information in a clear way in a bar graph and table
- Develop an advertisement that communicate information effectively to the public

Application:
- Include information on health/safety risks
- Include information on Canadian contributions to space travel and research