

# Integrated Media Literacy Project

## Prezi: The Final Frontier (Intermediate Grades)

### Project Description

Using traditional and online research tools, students can compile, organize and present their knowledge about space and our solar system using Prezi ([www.prezi.com](http://www.prezi.com)), a customizable presentation tool that encourages students to find dynamic visuals, videos and sound clips to share their learning with their peers and the world beyond.

### Before the Project

- Research and Learning: Teachers should provide project specifics and parameters to students, and also outline expectations for what categories of information should be included in student projects. Students should then begin their research about space, in the classroom using traditional information sources, and also online, starting by browsing to find websites that contain useful information about their chosen topic.
- Technical and Media Setup:
  - Teachers who understand the principles of uploading and the basics of PowerPoint are likely to be able to understand Prezi, yet a brief overview of the software is encouraged. This can be found online at the Prezi website (<http://prezi.com/learn/>).
  - Teachers should create one master account for the class, or create a class set of accounts for use in both current and future years. Please note that the class/master account(s) should be set up before introducing Prezi to the class (and then either printed or in order for everyone to be able to sign on efficiently).

### First Online Session

- Teachers should brainstorm with students to create an outline of the project, detailing the tasks that need to be completed before presentation day (research, organization of facts, compilation of information, creation and rehearsal of the final Prezi) and what information should be included in the presentation (for example, our group included learning statements, pictures, videos and incorporating a wow/cool factor into their presentations).
- Students should sign onto the class/master account(s) using the assigned email and password.
- Students should be introduced to Prezi by watching a quick example on the site's main page, then should be encouraged to watch the tutorial videos to learn more about how to use Prezi.
- Students can begin planning their space presentations in Prezi, choosing a template or starting with a blank canvas. Then they should choose and labeling categories on each section/slide, and begin to plan their animation path (the shape and path of their overall presentation and each slide within it) in a way that matches their theme (ie. for a solar system project, students could begin at the sun and travel outwards to Uranus and beyond).

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- After this planning is complete, students can then begin their space research. Students should start by creating a folder on the desktop, or in a secure area of the computer, to store all the images and information they find. Teachers should review Internet safety and responsible browsing techniques with the class.
- Though there are many helpful websites for researching space, the following include kid-friendly approaches and interesting facts and images:
  - DiscoveryEducation: <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schooladventures/universe/>
  - NASA's Space Place: <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/>
  - National Geographic: <http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/space/>

## **Second Online Session**

- Students should login to their Prezi account, continuing their research and the development of their presentations; images or videos should be added to each slide (with a backup entered into their computer folder), along with point-form information that will guide the students in their verbal presentation.
- Students can also add drawings, shapes, live links (URLs that connect to a webpage when clicked on during a presentation) and any more advanced features as time permits. It should be reinforced that anything that is added needs to fit into their theme and be relevant to their project; distracting or extraneous information should be removed, even when it is entertaining and cool.
- Students should animate their projects and ensure that each slide has a consistent color theme and font, beginning their rehearsal of their presentation.
- Each slide in the project should be reviewed for grammar and spelling mistakes;
- As their projects begin to take shape, but before they have reached completion, teachers and/or student peers should assist groups in editing and revising their projects.
- If given permission by teachers, students may choose to work on their projects at home using the login information provided; more sessions may also be required for the entire class to complete their projects.

## **Third Online Session**

- Students should login to Prezi, and share their presentations either with the class, or with another group as time permits. During presentations, other students can take notes for possible test questions, and provide constructive comments about what each others presentations;
- To engage students in reflecting about their online learning, ask students:
  - How did using Prezi as a presentation tool assist you in your learning? Was it easier for you too remember the information by using Prezi?
  - How did you organize your presentation? What information did you consider very important, and what did you leave out? Why?

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- Did using websites, videos and images help you learn more about space?

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