

ASTRONOMY-TO-GO

The John J. McCarthy Observatory

LESSON: Stump the Astronomers! **(8)**

CURRICULUM: Grade 6 astronomy unit
(CT STD. 8.3) “Earth and the Solar System: How does the position of Earth in the Solar System affect the conditions on our planet?”

GUEST INSTRUCTOR: Panel of JJMO volunteers – 2 or more.

TIME: One or two class periods, as desired

LOCATION: Classroom

TEACHING AIDS: None

DESCRIPTION: This lesson was the idea of Kathy Fischer, who used it at the end of her unit on astronomy to reinforce lessons learned during the unit, to inspire creativity and answer student questions, and have some fun. We provided a JJMO ultraviolet bead bracelet for Kathy to award to the student with the best question in each class. Kathy was the judge!

Kathy had the students work on their questions in the days leading up to this lesson, with the ground rule that no silly or trivial/look-up questions were to be asked. Such as “what is the diameter of Jupiter?”. Most questions were good to very good, and some led to extensions of ideas covered in other ATG lessons, or elsewhere in the astronomy unit. Heartily recommended if time permits.

ASSESSMENT: Teacher observation.
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