



brains on!

CURIOSITY KIT: DEEP SEA VS. OUTER SPACE

ACTIVITY OBJECTIVE:

Kids will engage in hands-on debate activities to help understand the art of argument.

MATERIALS/SETUP:

Portable speaker and device to play the episode

Separated work spaces for the students

Tagboard/poster board/cardstock (consider painting over old campaign signs)

Button maker (optional, if available)

Large permanent markers/paint & brushes

Tarps for table and floor (if painting)

INSTRUCTIONS:

(Consider doing the activities while listening to the podcast.)

Pre-kids:

1. Make a sign at the entrance asking “Which is cooler: deep sea or outer space?”
2. Put signs in the corners of the room saying “Strongly agree,” “Agree,” “Disagree,” and “Strongly disagree.” (Color coding might help: green for strongly agree, red for strongly disagree, and yellow for the middle two options.)

With kids:

3. Have kids decide deep sea or outer space. *Expect kids to be indecisive, to want to sit with friends, and to flip flop their opinions.
4. While listening to the podcast, kids will make campaigning posters, buttons, etc. to complete the statement: Outer space/ Deep sea is cooler because...

5. At the end of the podcast (or when they need a break) have kids stand and encourage a few to share their posters.
6. For the next activity, they don't have to stick by their original opinion. Instruct them that this is when opinions may diverge. Read the following statements, and have them go to the corners (strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree) that best fit their current opinion.
 - a. I would like to go to outer space.
 - b. I would like to know how to scuba dive.
 - c. Dolphins are cooler than asteroids.
 - d. The moon is cooler than the Mariana Trench.
 - e. Space feels too distant for me to care about it.
 - f. Underwater pressure is too scary to think about exploring down there.
 - g. (Share statements heard/seen on the posters/buttons.)
7. Regroup, and encourage someone from each “side” to make a closing statement. Take a final vote. Celebrate the winner. Encourage fair behavior, perhaps by shaking hands.

QUESTIONS ADULTS CAN ASK:

(Don't forget to keep your hands off the project!)

- Why do we know more about outer space than we do about the deep sea?
- Who do you know who's really good at arguing? What makes them good?



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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

WEBSITES:

<https://www.oxfam.org.au/secondary-section-1-part-3-what-makes-a-successful-campaign-poster/>

(for adult)

http://www.slate.com/articles/technology/future_tense/2013/09/sea_vs_space_which_is_the_real_final_frontier.html

BOOKS:

Astronaut, Aquanaut
by Jennifer Swanson