

8+

2h

PRIMARY
SCHOOL

Space Scoop Storytelling

EN



BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Use Space Scoop astronomy news stories for children as the basis for a creative writing and drawing activity.



KEYWORDS

Space Scoop

storytelling

journalism

drawing

creative

art

literacy



MATERIALS

- Multiple copies of several Space Scoop releases (available from www.eu-unawe.org/kids)
- Crayons
- A pen and paper (or a computer)



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Getting familiar with astronomy and science journalism; improving creative thinking, literacy skills and team working skills.



**BACKGROUND
INFORMATION**

While professional astronomers strive to further our understanding of the Universe, science communicators are doing an equally important job: sharing this new knowledge with the public.

Astronomy communication is especially important for children, where the aim of highlighting exciting new discoveries is to inspire them to develop an interest in science and technology.



**FULL ACTIVITY
DESCRIPTION**

EU Universe Awareness (EU-UNAWA) has created an astronomy news service for young children, called Space Scoop (www.eu-unawe.org/kids). The idea behind Space Scoop is to change how astronomy and space sciences are often presented to young children as historical subjects.

By sharing exciting new astronomical discoveries with them, we aim to inspire them to develop an interest in science and technology.

In addition to being a fantastic resource to introduce young children to the world of science, Space Scoop can also be used as reference material by teachers for developing lessons in creative writing and drawing.



Step 1

Print out lots of different Space Scoops. Separate the children into groups in different parts of the classroom and distribute the Space Scoops so that the children only see the Space Scoop that they are working on.

Step 2

Tell the children to imagine that they are in a spaceship (they can be human or an alien) and that they saw the astronomical object(s) or event in the Space Scoop release.



Step 3

Ask them to write a description of the object(s) or event in the form of an eyewitness account. Emphasise the need to use lots of adjectives.
Alternative: Ask the children to re-tell the Space Scoop in the form of a poem.

Step 4

Tell the children to swap their stories with someone from a different group. Then ask them to draw a picture of the astronomical object or event described by their classmate. The drawing must be based solely on the eyewitness account, without looking at the original Space Scoop.

Step 5

Ask the children to pair up with the person that they swapped their story with. Are the drawings similar to what the storytellers had imaged the objects or event would look like when writing their eyewitness accounts (or if they are similar to the picture used in the Space Scoops)? If they are different, ask them to try to figure out why. Could the storyteller have included more description to help the reader? Or is this astronomical object or event so strange and bizarre that there are many possible ideas for what it may look like, which are all equally right? Do professional astronomers even know how it really looks?

