

Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana
Post-Mission Activity Ideas

Essay / Report

Students write an essay / report about their Challenger Center mission; this draws mostly on their own experiences, but they can supplement any of these with actual research about our Center and mission:

- **Narrative:** tell the story of your field trip, from beginning to end
- **Expository:** give information about what Challenger Learning Center is all about
- **Persuasive:** persuade another school / teacher to take their class on a field trip to Challenger
- **Descriptive:** describe the Challenger Learning Center spaces: lobby, Briefing Room, Mission Control, Spacecraft

STEM Job Connection

Students analyze their mission job and make connections to real-life STEM jobs:

- Begin with a summary / report of the job (what they did during the mission – tasks completed, what their work was like, etc.)
- Research other jobs like the one they did, whether it's in NASA or elsewhere
- Connection to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

Interview

Pair up students who were on completely different teams during the mission and have them interview each other; presentation of the interview results can be done in many ways (written paper, Power Point, oral presentation, etc.):

- Questions provided by Challenger
- Questions written by students
- Questions written by teacher
- Students would summarize their partners' answers and present in some way

Interview Question Ideas

- How would you describe your job to someone who knew nothing about it?
- What did you like best about your job?
- What was most challenging about your job?
- What qualities does a person need to do your job well?
- How do you feel that your job was important to the mission?
- What other jobs would you have liked to try, and why?
- Why do you think someone would like to come to do a mission at Challenger?
- What advice would you give another student about to do a mission at Challenger?

Art Connection: STEAM

Students create an art piece inspired by some aspect of their Challenger Field Trip:

- Mission Control
- Spacecraft
- Lobby
- The Challenger Crew
- An important occurrence during the mission
- Artwork inspired by which mission they completed: Mars, Moon, or Comet
- Mission Patch (*usually done before the mission, but can be done after) – use other patches from past NASA missions as inspiration

Press Conference

The class creates an event, either in person or online, for students to document their mission experience and interact with others about it:

- Invitation sent to parents, families, etc.
- Teacher introduces event and how students prepared for the mission
- Students share information and experiences from the mission along with their teammates (for example, both COM officers work together)
- Photos, mission patches, etc. are also shared during the presentation
- Question and Answer session where the audience can ask students more about the mission

Space Extension

The Challenger mission may have sparked an increased interest in space and space travel for your students! Here are some ideas for extension:

- Research and create a presentation on Mars, the moon, or a comet (depending on which mission was completed)
- Investigate current events in space travel (upcoming missions, current research on the International Space Station, plans to return to the moon on the Artemis missions, future travel to Mars, deep space travel, etc.)
- Watch a movie about space and write a review
- Research prominent scientists in the space field, such as Galileo
- Create and implement a survey to get others' opinions on their knowledge of space and their interest in space travel and research
- Investigate how space travel is viewed in different cultures / outside of the USA

Take it Further: Tech Connection

Students can present, summarize, and reflect on their field trip experience using classroom programs and software on their devices:

- Create a multimedia poster using Glogster
- Make a presentation on Power Point, Prezi, or Google Slides
- Use your preferred video software for kids to record and present the interviews
- Write a story about the Challenger trip or experience using Animoto, Pixton, or other story programs/software
- Write a blog post through the perspective of a "travel critic," giving information for those who may visit Challenger later