

Overview



Dear Giant Moon Map user:

Welcome to the ShareSpace Education Giant Moon Map community of learners. When we imagine the ideal use of the Giant Moon Map, we think about students thoughtfully enjoying time experiencing the map and interacting with one another related to the information contained on the map. Our experience has been that kids (and adults!) really enjoy walking around and on the map. What we also understand is that classroom use of the map requires a lot more than a hike with unstructured interactions. When we imagine ideal implementation, we picture an interdisciplinary team of teachers sitting around a table talking about how the Giant Moon Map can be a valuable tool in each subject area, then creating a project that meets learning objectives for each discipline. Magic happens when teachers take tools like the map and find their own authentic uses for them.

The activities that are contained in these files are a compilation of ideas that are possible for use with students in classrooms, at home, in informal learning environments, and while participating in afterschool programs. They are not intended to be a complete curriculum. They are not intended to be followed in sequence or for groups to complete all activities. Instead, some activities will appeal more to teachers of science, others to mathematicians, some to social studies teachers, and others to teachers of the language arts. The authors recognize from long experience that as teachers often see their own content within a lesson, lessons can be improved by modification to meet specific student needs in specific situations. It is our belief that the teacher in the classroom is the best possible partner in taking these activities and making them great for students.

The activities range from overarching, large projects down to relatively simple lessons. As we think about creating student activities, we keep three things in the front of our minds: what we do will be accurate and good science, the work will be of high interest and fun for students, and the activities will require students to practice skills of communication and collaboration. At the end of the day, helping students to learn to communicate and work together may be the greatest lesson. We hope these activities and the map can help you achieve your goals.

We are available to be of service. Please explore our web site at <https://sharespace.org/> and feel free to contact us with your comments, questions, and concerns.

Sincerely,

Jim Christensen
Executive Director