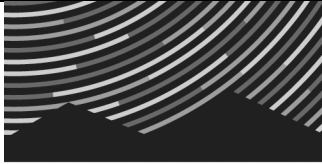


<p>“Live... from McDonald Observatory!” Videoconference “Discover our Solar System: Make a Size Scale Model” Pre-Conference Activity</p>	 <p>McDonald Observatory</p>
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Activity – Generating Questions:
All Grades – One Class Period

Allow students within small groups to generate a list of three to five driving questions inspired by their interests and current class science topics that they would like to explore during their videoconference.

Depending upon how much time you have, they may wish to consult books, magazines, or the Internet for background information that will help them generate their questions.

Background

Internet suggestions:

1.) Go to the “What Are Astronomers Doing?” website at:
<http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/research>

Students may research the astronomers using McDonald Observatory, and write about whom they would like to meet and why. If this astronomer is observing this week they might include something about the project the astronomer is doing.

2.) Go to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) at:
<http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/research/resources/faqs/>

Students may look for the question closest to their personal questions about the solar system, astronomy in general, or McDonald Observatory. They may also pose their own new question.

3.) Go to the NASA Solar System Exploration website at:
<http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/>

Students may look for specific solar system science questions they are interested in here.

Before the conference, you should make your post-conference assignment clear to the students. The information they gather during their conference is material they will use in the post-conference activity. For example, you may offer a variety of post-conference assignments: a poster, radio commercial, PowerPoint presentation, or a story documenting what they learned. For specific post-activity suggestions see the “Discover our Solar System – Make a Size Scale Model” post-conference activities link.