

NASA
Space Program:
Triumph and Tragedy

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Individual Exhibit

I chose to do my report on the NASA Space Program because I live in Florida and Cape Canaveral is a very popular attraction. I was also hoping that I might get to go to Cape Canaveral and actually visit the Space Center. When I look up at the sky, I find it fascinating that people have actually walked on the moon. I really wanted to learn more about it.

I started my project by going to the library and checking out a lot of books. Several of the books were similar so I was able to narrow it down to just a few. I was able to scan some of the pictures from the books to use for my display board. After learning that President Eisenhower was responsible for NASA, I started searching websites for more information on him. What better way to get a primary resource than from the man who started the program! I found one site that had copies of all the original documents he sent regarding wanting to start NASA, budgeting for it and finally the actual press release and statement.

I also found the NASA website on the internet. NASA is a government agency so I knew this would give me another reliable primary resource. This site gave me several good pictures that I used on the display board as well. I wanted to include models on the display board but everything looked so difficult to try to build from scratch. I decided to look around and see if any of the hobby shops might have some models I could put together.

My mother took me to Hobby Oasis and I found model kits on the International Space Station and the Lunar Module. I also bought a model of the space shuttle. We then went to Joanne's Fabrics and bought a large Styrofoam sphere. I spray painted it silver to represent the moon. I wanted to use this to put the lunar module models on.

We went to Staple's and bought the display board, poster board, and letters for the title. They also had border paper with space designs. I thought stickers would help accent the display. I love to do scrap booking, and had fun putting the board together. I decided to put the title in red, white, and blue to represent the USA. The hardest part was trying to mount the models to the board with wire.

Trying to keep the theme of Triumph and Tragedy in mind helped me decide which pictures to use. The NASA Space Program has had their share of both. Pictures showing the triumphs of NASA were mounted and placed on the left side of the board under the same title. The tragedies were then mounted and displayed under that title on the right. The main source of information was placed in the center above the models. I thought this way people would first read how important the NASA space program is before just looking at pictures.

Word count: 500

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PRIMARY RESOURCES:

Apollo-1 (204) tragedy, Steve Garber, NASA History Web Curator, updated February 1, 2003 <http://history.nasa.gov/Apollo204/>

I was able to get information on the fire that took the lives of three astronauts from this site.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, Digital Documents Online, February 2, 2006 <http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/>

I was really impressed with all of the documents found on this site. There were also several links for additional educational materials for students on other important subjects President Eisenhower was involved with.

NASA home page, Brian Dunbar, NASA official, updated December 1, 2006 <http://www.nasa.gov/>

This site had almost too much information. There were several links on this site that gave me direction as to what to look for.

SECONDARY RESOURCES:

Bredeson, Carmen. Our Space Program. 1999. Connecticut: The Millbrook Press.
Most of the information in this book was the same as I had already read in NASA Space Vehicles: Capsules, Shuttles, and Space Stations. I did copy one picture from this book.

Cole, Michael D. NASA Space Vehicles: Capsules, Shuttles, and Space Stations (Countdown to Space). 2000. New Jersey: Enslow Publishers Inc.
This book had a lot of information detailing the design of the different spacecrafts.

Lassieur, Allison. The Space Shuttle. 2000. New York: Children's Press, a Division of Grolier Publishing.

The information in this book just confirmed most of what I had already taken notes on from the other books. There were a couple of good pictures I used.

“Space Disasters”. Wikipedia Online. Nov. 2006. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. 5 Nov. 2006

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_disaster#Spaceflight_fatalities

This site was quite interesting. I was able to learn more about the NASA tragedies and where to go to research further. I was able to get a good picture of the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster from this site.

“Space Shuttle Columbia Disaster”. Wikipedia Online. Nov. 2006. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. 5 Nov. 2006

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/04/Crew_of_STS107%2C..

The only thing I took from this article was the picture of the Columbia crew.

VOGT, Gregory. A Twenty-fifth Anniversary Album of NASA. 1983. New York: Franklin Watts, a Grolier Company.

Most of the time line information was obtained from this book as well as some of the black and white pictures. The only bad thing was this book was old and did not have the most recent events included.