



plagiarism:

copying an idea or the written work of
someone else without saying where the
information came from

Mars Rover Model Celebration – Lesson Plan

Introduction:

TEACHER: Teach the word “research” first, before plagiarism as students need to be familiar with both terms before doing the Reflection activity below.

One of the new vocabulary words for this unit is **plagiarism**. Plagiarism means to “copy an idea or the written work of someone else without saying where the information came from”. Plagiarism is considered to be cheating as the person who copies is taking credit for work done by someone else.

Let’s look at some pictures that will help us understand the meaning of the word “plagiarism”. In the first picture, a woman is copying word for word the information from a book. If she turns in the information she has copied and calls it her own without giving credit to the author of the book, she is committing plagiarism. In the second picture, one girl is attempting to copy the work of her classmate. By copying the other student’s work, she is committing plagiarism.

Teachers and scientists take plagiarism very seriously. Students who are caught plagiarizing the work of others will get a failing grade on that assignment. In some cases, they can even be expelled or kicked out of school. If a scientist is found to have committed plagiarism, he can lose his job and find it very difficult to find new work.

Example:

Let me give you another example of plagiarism. Suppose I were working on my Mars Rover project and I found a great paragraph on the internet about my mission. If I were to copy that paragraph and put it into my science notebook, without giving credit to the author, I would be committing plagiarism. If I were to be caught, not only would I be in trouble, but my entire team would suffer.

Plagiarism can be easily avoided. As you conduct your research, don’t copy information word for word. Instead, take notes and summarize the information in your own words. If there is an idea or part of a reading you want to quote exactly as an author said it, be sure to give the author credit. If you want to use a piece of information word for word, you need to do it in a way that lets everyone know it is not your work. Your teacher can show you how to give the author proper credit.

Reflection:

I am going to say some sentences. If the person has copied information without giving credit, I want you to put your thumbs down and say PLAGIARISM. If they did proper research, put your thumbs up and say RESEARCH.

- A student copies a paragraph from the internet on the planet Mars into a homework assignment and does not write down the author and book the information came from. (plagiarism)
- A student reads three books on Mars, takes notes and writes a report in his own words (research)
- A student writes a book on the computer using ideas from several books, giving credit to the authors. (research)

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- A student overhears how another student plans to solve a Mars Rover landing problem, likes the idea and writes it into their own Mars Rover project without asking for permission or writing down whose idea it was. (plagiarism)

Make it personal:

Talk with a neighbor about why you think teachers and schools treat plagiarism so seriously. Begin your sentence with “Teachers and schools treat plagiarism seriously because....” I will ask several of you to share your ideas with the class.