



## Family Fun Activities and Investigations

The following are sites where families can participate in programs or interact with exhibits to learn more about geology and astronomy. Please contact the sites specifically to learn about their current exhibits and calendar of events.

### **Benjamin Banneker Planetarium**

(443) 840-5939

<http://www.ccbcmd.edu/catonsvilleplanetarium/>

### **Catoctin Mountain Park**

(301) 663-9330

<http://www.nps.gov/cato/index.htm>

### **Calvert Cliffs**

(301) 872-5688 Fossil Hunting

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/baylinks/15.html>

### **Maryland Science Center**

410-685-2370

<http://www.mdsci.org/>

### **Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History**

(202) 633-1000

<http://www.mnh.si.edu/>

## Career Connections



Take a few minutes to discuss with your child these different career opportunities for people interested in geology and astronomy.

### Astronaut

A person trained to fly a space craft and to do science experiments in space

### Astronomer

A scientist who studies the planets, and other objects and matter outside Earth's atmosphere

### Astrophotographer

A person who takes space-related photographs

### Geologist

A scientist who studies how the Earth is formed, its history, and how it changes

### Museum Curator

A person in charge of a museum

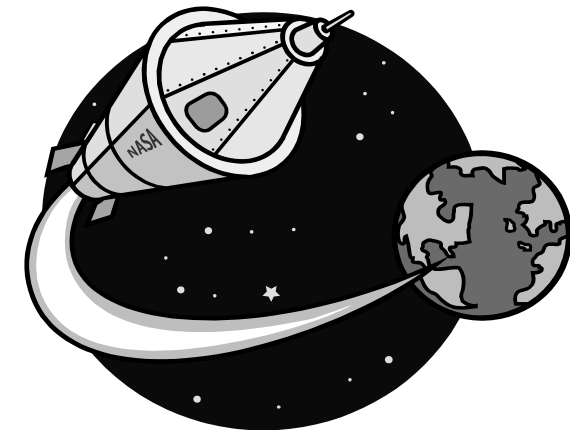
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## A Parent's Informational Guide to:

# A SPACE ODYSSEY



## Grade 2



# A Space Odyssey

A Space Odyssey is a second grade unit designed to teach the chemical and physical interaction of the environment, Earth, and the universe that occur over time. During this unit of study, students utilize a variety of scientific and mathematical skills to extend their understanding of Earth and space. The objectives that are addressed in this unit which align to BCPS's curriculum and the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum are listed below.

**Indicator** 1. Describe and compare properties of a variety of Earth materials.

## Objectives

- Classify a collection of rocks based on the properties that distinguish one type from another.
- Collect soil from different locations and compare the properties of the sample.
- Use examples of observations from places around the school and neighborhood to describe ways Earth materials can change.

**Indicator** 1. Observe and describe changes over time in the properties, location, and motion of celestial objects.

## Objectives

- Identify and record observable properties of the sun, moon, and stars.
- Identify and record the apparent visible changes in the shape of the moon over two months of observations.
- Observe and record changes in the location of the sun and moon in the sky over time.
- Describe and compare the patterns of change that occur in the sun and the moon.



# Unit Vocabulary

Encourage your children to use the vocabulary listed below when telling you about what they are learning during this science unit.

**Atmosphere**—the gases that are around the Earth

**Galaxy**—a system of stars, dust, and gas held together by gravity

**Mountain**—a part of land that is much higher than the land around it

**Planet**—a large object that travels around a star

**Plateau**—a large, flat land area at a high level

**Soil**—material that is made of tiny rocks, dead and decaying plants and animals

**Solar system**—the sun with a group of celestial objects that travel around it

**Star**—A natural, bright object found in outer space

**Sun**—The star that Earth travels around that provides energy for living things



# Books to Read

Take some time to read a few books about geology and space with your child.

Books about these topics can be found in the non-fiction section of the library. The children's section of your school and public library also has books on this topic. Possible books are listed below:

Does the Moon Change Shape? by Meish Goldish

I am a Rock by Scholastic Publishing

If You Find a Rock by Peggy Christian

Magic School Bus Sees Stars by Nancy White

The Moon Seems to Change by Franklin Branley

## Internet Sites



Go to onLINE website at [www.bcps.org/offices/lis](http://www.bcps.org/offices/lis). Select "Databases" link to open the Database Portal. Use the following login protocols for databases you wish to use.

SIRS Discoverer/ SIRS Discoverer WebFind

User Name: bcps

Password: sirs

BrainPop

User Name: bcps

Password: brainpop