NC TEACH Lesson Plan
NORTH CAROLINA SIX POINT LESSON PLAN
Subject: Earth/ Environmental Science
Topic: Solar System
Teacher: Ms Bartell
Date: 06/25/2015

Essential Questions:
1. What are the visible characteristics of the planets and moons in our solar system?
2. In what ways have researchers recorded observations of moons and planets, and what trends or patterns have been discovered?

Summary:
Introduce students to planetary research and familiarize them with the planets and their features.

Keywords: Solar System, Planets, and moons

Lesson Objectives:
Students will:
1. Understand that planetary images contain valuable information, but require interpretation, which is somewhat uncertain.
2. Be able to recognize each planet or moon by its unique and identifiable features.
3. Understand that scientists summarize findings to look for patterns in groups like planets and moons.

Standard:
EEn.1.1 Explain the Earth’s role as a body in space

Key Concepts:
1. Each planet has unique and identifiable features.
2. Planets have some common features.
3. Images can be used to study the planets and their features.

Grade Levels:
9-12

Time Requirements:
1. Total class time required: approx 4 class periods (approx 60 minutes each).
2. Total preparation time for the teacher: 1 hour.
3. Class period 1: Introduction to planetary research, student journals, and group discussion.
5. Class period 3: Lesson Part II - The Researcher’s Description: Students use computers: self-guided activity to compare student descriptions of images with those of experienced researchers.
   6. For homework, students prepare tables of planet/moon vs. features.
   7. Class period 4: Lesson Part III - Alice Program: Students will use the Alice Program to review information about the solar system.