



Activity Duration: 60 minutes

Ages: 4-11+

Theme: Space & Perspective

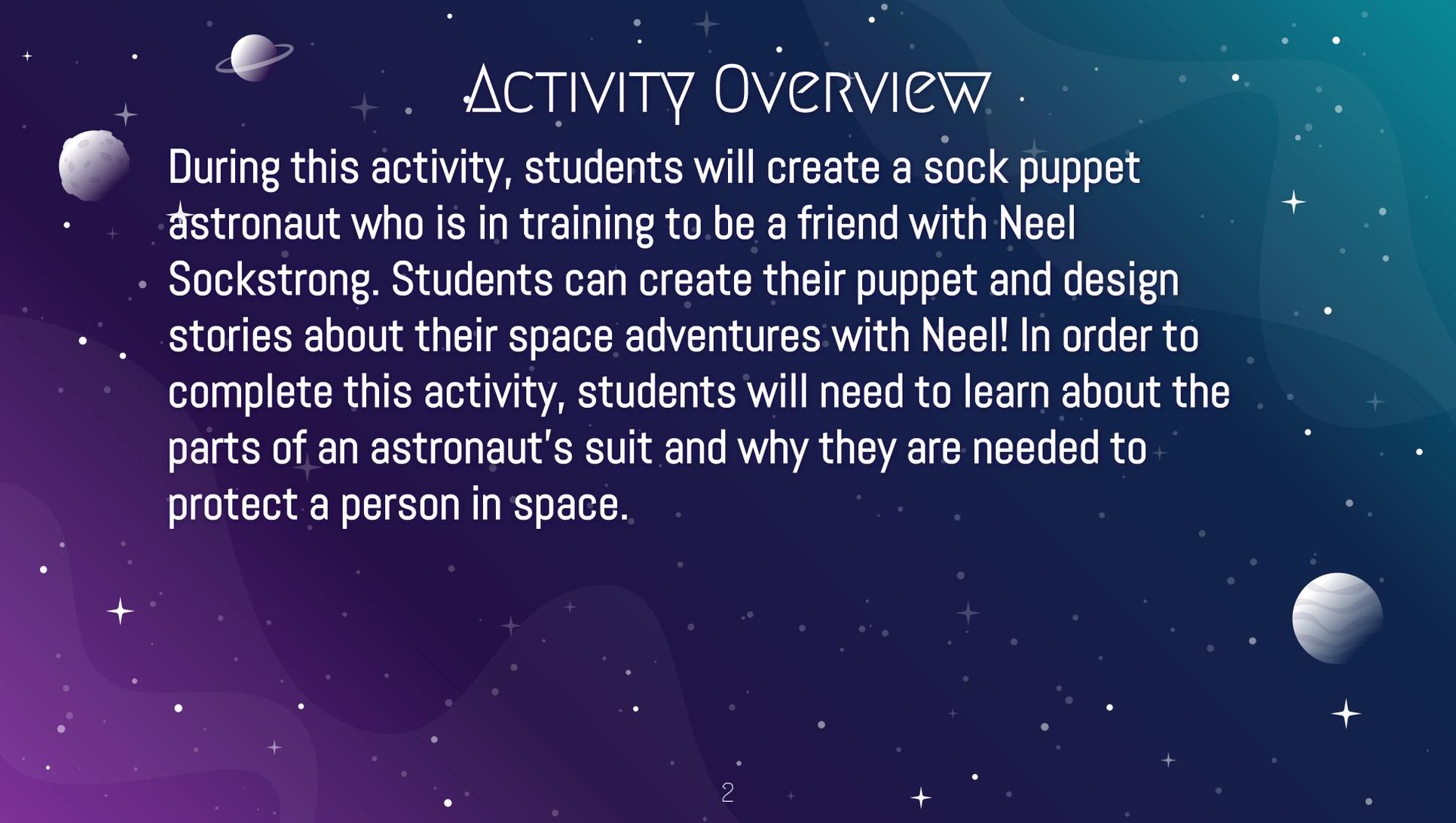
NEEL SOCKSTRONG

ONE SMALL STEP FOR PUPPET ONE FUN

CRAFT FOR STUDENT KIND

-JORDIE MARIE BIPPON



The background is a vibrant space scene with a gradient from dark purple on the left to teal on the right. It is filled with numerous white stars of varying sizes and shapes, some with four-pointed starburst effects. Several celestial bodies are visible: a ringed planet (like Saturn) in the upper left, a cratered moon or planet in the middle left, and a striped planet (like Jupiter) in the lower right. There are also soft, glowing nebula-like shapes in shades of purple and blue.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

During this activity, students will create a sock puppet astronaut who is in training to be a friend with Neel Sockstrong. Students can create their puppet and design stories about their space adventures with Neel! In order to complete this activity, students will need to learn about the parts of an astronaut's suit and why they are needed to protect a person in space.



ACTIVITY BACKGROUND

Space suits, helmets and life support backpacks are all part of the equipment need to make an astronaut safe in space, where there is no air to breathe or protection from the cold or the direct sun (outside of a space vehicle).

By creating a sock puppet, students first get hands-on experience about what is needed to make a “human- or animal-like” puppet (head with face, body, and arms.) NOTE: The puppet does not need to be totally realistic!

Then, they can build upon that knowledge to add the parts that make their puppet a successful astronaut, like an oxygen tank backpack and a space helmet. As they are creating space suit parts, they learn what the purpose of each suit part is.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

1. A sock
2. Cardboard
3. Crayons
4. Felt
5. Scissors
6. A sharpie [black]
7. Hot glue or fabric glue
8. Any other fun materials for decoration

* If you are using a hot glue gun, please make sure the child has someone to help them

* [Click here for the how to guide](#)

ACTIVITY

1. Meet Neel Sockstrong: <https://youtu.be/2Pg07PnqczA>
2. Watch these:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EN50kKV7j5s>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmqvgSbWxqM>

2. Try this: [NASA's Clickable Spacesuit](#)

If you have Flash installed it can be interactive, if not click on the non-flash link. Read the information about each part of a spacesuit.

3. Think about what you want your puppet to look like.
4. Think about what your puppet's suit needs to have and why.
What materials can you use for each part of the spacesuit?
What properties (strength, flexibility...) does each part need?

SUPPLEMENTAL AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION



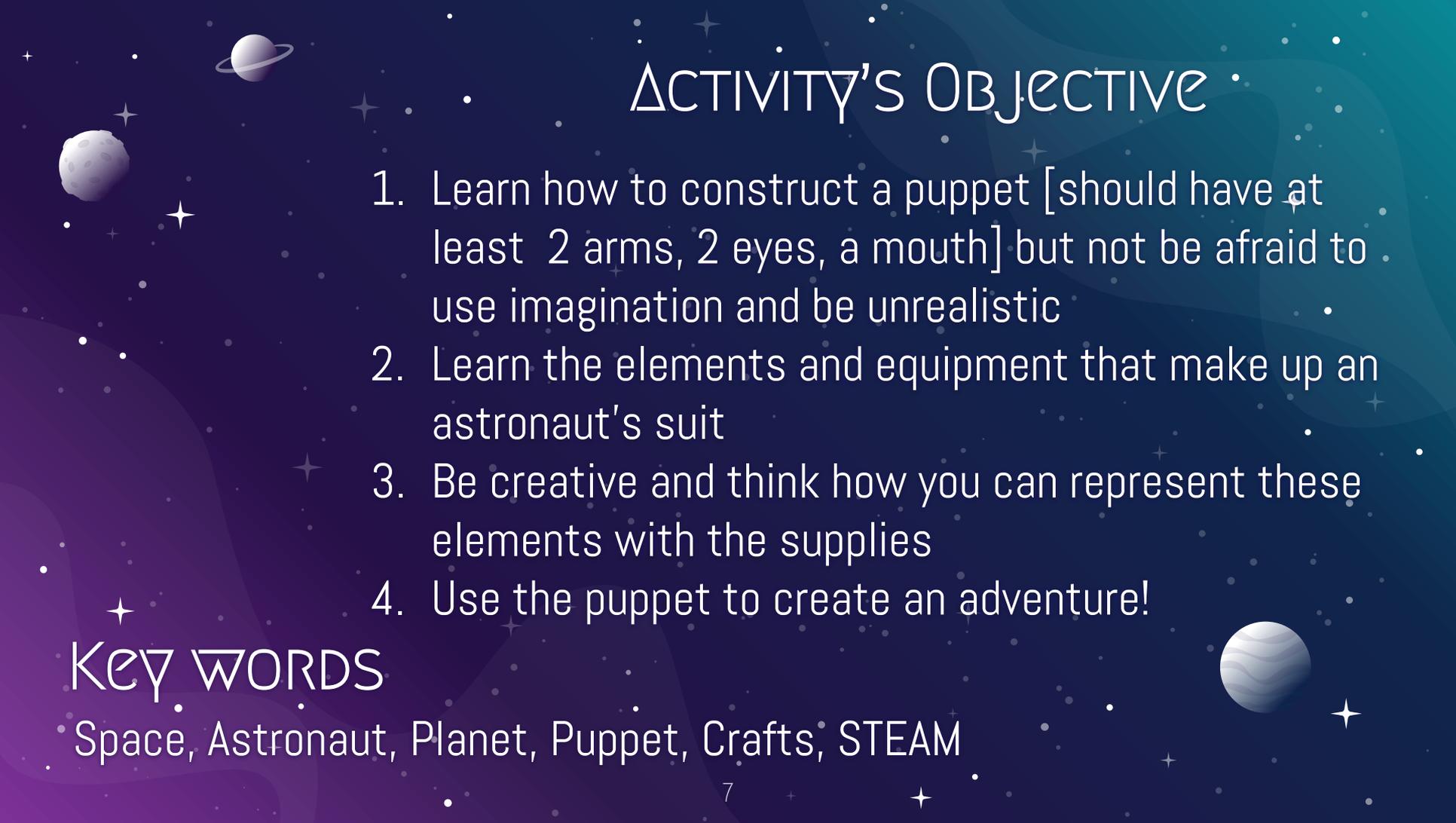
What are the parts of an astronaut's suit?

Why can't people breathe in space?

What might astronauts see in space?

What would you like to see in space?



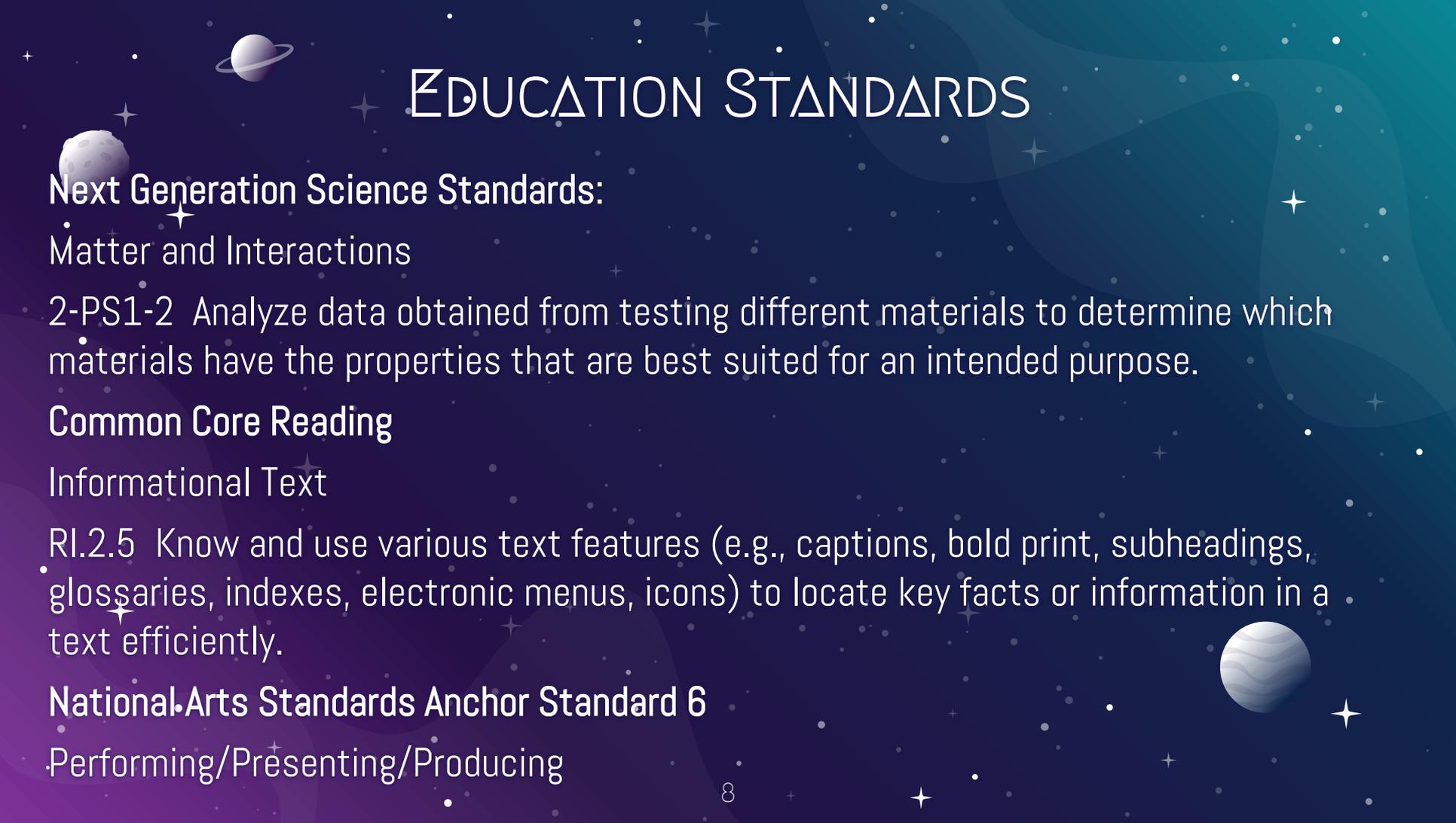


ACTIVITY'S OBJECTIVE

1. Learn how to construct a puppet [should have at least 2 arms, 2 eyes, a mouth] but not be afraid to use imagination and be unrealistic
2. Learn the elements and equipment that make up an astronaut's suit
3. Be creative and think how you can represent these elements with the supplies
4. Use the puppet to create an adventure!

KEY WORDS

Space, Astronaut, Planet, Puppet, Crafts, STEAM



EDUCATION STANDARDS

Next Generation Science Standards:

Matter and Interactions

2-PS1-2 Analyze data obtained from testing different materials to determine which materials have the properties that are best suited for an intended purpose.

Common Core Reading

Informational Text

RI.2.5 Know and use various text features (e.g., captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently.

National Arts Standards Anchor Standard 6

Performing/Presenting/Producing



THANKS!

