

Young Advisors Group

Saturday 18th January – Exhibition Q&A with the public

What is this session about?

This session will require you to research a moon or a couple of moons in the solar system. You will then interact with the general public, answering questions they may have or talking to them about the moon / moons you've chosen.

Background

The Royal Observatory has a temporary exhibition called 'Marvellous Moons'. This small gallery highlights some of the weird and wonderful moons we find in our solar system.

We also have a planetarium show called 'Moons Beyond Counting' where one of the astronomers talks about some of the moons in more detail using images, videos and animations in the planetarium.

The public often have their own questions whilst looking around the gallery or have further questions if they've been to the planetarium show too and in this session you will engage with the public to try and help answer some of their unanswered questions.

What will happen on the day?

- 2:30 – 3:15 – arrival, introductions and simple training

We'll go through some simple training techniques and tips to get you more comfortable with talking to and answering questions from the public (including how to answer difficult questions or those you don't know the answer to).

- 3:15 to 4:15 – Q&A with the public in the Marvellous Moons gallery

This will be your chance to use the knowledge you've acquired through your research and help answer some questions from the public.

- 4:15 to 4:30 – debrief

A chance to reflect on how the session went.

Is there anything I need to do before the session?

Yes – take a look at the preparation guidance below.

Preparation

So that you're more prepared to deal with some often questions you may be asked, we'd like you to research one or two moons in the solar system that you'd be happy to talk about.

Don't worry – you don't need to everything about the moon you choose and you don't need to memorise facts if you don't want to – you can prepare some notes to keep with you on the day.

HINT AND TIPS!

- Pick a moon that is very interesting to scientists – you'll be able to find more things to research and more exciting things to talk about. E.g. Titan, Enceladus, the Galilean moons.
- Think about your audience. On average the general public will know as much as an 11-14-year-old might know. You'll need to explain the science in a simple way and think about what sorts of questions they're likely to ask you.
- You might want to start off with some basic facts – like what is a moon? How many moons are there in the solar system? What's the biggest moon? How do moons form?
Having some quick facts like this in your back pocket can help kick start a conversation.

By Friday 10th January – please could you let me know which moon / moons you've chosen and send up to 3 images that you would like to have as visual aids. The images you choose will be printed off for you so that you can use them on the day to help you explain certain things to your audience.

If you can, it's good practise to include the credit for the image (where did you find the image / who owns that image). Scientists have to credit images when they use them if they're not their own.

For example – if I chose Titan, I might want the following images to explain why Titan is so interesting:



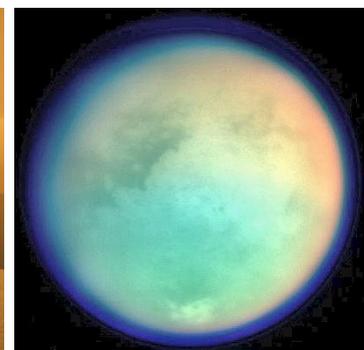
Color view of Titan's surface, captured by the Huygens probe after landing in January 2005.

(Credit: NASA / JPL / ESA / University of Arizona)



Artist's impression of Titan's surface and atmosphere.

(Credit: Benjamin de Bivort, debivort.org / CC BY-SA 3.0)



Titan

(Credit: NASA / JPL / SSI)

Please send a link to the images or image files so we can make sure it's printed out nice and big!