

## Operation: Planet Zworfin

**WebQuest Description:** Evaluating Web Sites

**Grade Level:** 3-5

**Curriculum:** Technology

**Keywords:** web sites, evaluation, Internet

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### Introduction

Welcome Astronauts to Operation: Zworfin. You have been selected for this job because we know that you are a highly qualified Internet browser. Your training on Earth using the Internet has prepared you for this challenging operation.

This Operation is all about helping aliens from the Planet Zworfin. The Zworfins are no longer able to live on their own planet. They have used up all of the resources and need to relocate to another planet. They have heard that the town of Mankato, Minnesota would be a great place to live here on Earth. And you are going to help them decide! Good luck Astronauts!

### Tasks

This Operation contains several highly sensitive missions. You will be using your knowledge of web site evaluation in order to recommend which web site the Zworfins should rely on for the most accurate information on Mankato, Minnesota. Remember that the Zworfins are considering moving to the town of Mankato, so they need the best information available to them in order to make a good decision.

**Astronaut Responsibilities**

1. You will review the main items that should be considered when evaluating a web site.
2. You will evaluate two different web sites about Mankato, Minnesota.
3. You will make a recommendation to the Zworfins about which web site is the best to use and why you believe that.

**Astronaut Roles**

During this Operation you will be working with a partner assigned by your teacher. Your astronaut team will have two different roles. One of you will be the Pilot. That person will navigate in the web site clicking on links, etc. The other role is Co-Pilot. That person will be the recorder of facts onto the forms. After the first mission the roles will switch, giving each astronaut a turn at both duties. The last mission requires both astronauts to work together.

### Process

**Astronauts:** Before you can begin your first mission we need to update you on the latest intelligence about web site evaluation. During Pre-flight Training you will be learning about web site evaluation. There are two pieces of Pre-flight Training. Both are listed below.

**Pre-flight Training**

**Web Site Domain Name Basics**

Every web site has an address or URL. There is information in that address that can tell about who has provided the information on the web site and why. Look at the list below and notice the differences in these web address endings. You will need to pay attention to that when you are evaluating the two Mankato web sites on your missions.

- .gov= USA government site (transportation, department of social services)
- .org= non-profit organization (a group that doesn't make money, American Cancer Society, but they can still want you to believe what they believe)
- .com= USA commercial web site (a company paid for the site and the information to be there)
- .mil= USA military web site (army, navy, air force)
- .edu= USA education site (elementary school, middle, high school, or college)

The college sites offer lots of good information on many different topics. Be careful with any other kind of school.

**Five W's of Web Site Evaluation**

Visit the link below called "Pre-flight Site." Read through the Five W's and make sure you understand why each of those areas is important to know about a web site. You will be using this information for your missions.

<http://kathyschrock.net/abceval/5ws.pdf>

**Pre-flight Site**

Mission 1 You are ready to begin your first mission. Remember that one of you will be the Pilot and one of you will be the Co-Pilot for this mission. The Pilote will navigate in the site. The Co-Pilot is to record the information. You are going to evaluate your first Mankato, MN web site. As you explore the site you are to complete the Mission 1 form. In Resources below you will find the Mission 1 form. Open it up and print it out. Then go to the Mission 1 Web Site below and use your astronaut skills and explore the site and its contents. Be sure to be as accurate as you can on your mission since your work will impact the Zworfins choice of which site to use to learn about about their future home.

<http://descy.50megs.com/Emankato/mankato.html>

**Mission 1 Web Site**

**Mission 2**

Good job Astronauts. I know that you worked very hard completing your first mission. Now you are ready to begin Mission 2. Make sure that you switch roles now. Whoever was the Pilot on the first mission will now get to be the Co-Pilot so you both get to have both roles. Just like in your first assignment, this mission requires you to print out the Mission 2 Form found in Resources below. Then you will visit the Mission 2 Web Site below. Complete your form while you are evaluating the various parts of the site.

[http://www.mankato-mn.gov/Mission 2 Web Site](http://www.mankato-mn.gov/Mission%20Web%20Site)

**Mission 3**

Now that you have completed your exploration of the two Mankato, Minnesota web sites, it is time that you decide which site provides the most accurate and best informatin for the Zworfins. They are not good users of the Internet so they are relying on you to help them choose the web site

that is best for their research on their new home.  The Zworfins cannot live on Zworfin any longer, they have used up all of its resources.  They have been told that Mankato, MN on Earth is a great place.  They need to make a quick decision about moving there.  You're to work with you partner to create an explanation of which site you would recommend to the Zworfins and why you believe that.  You need to use your Mission 1 and Mission 2 forms to help you decide.  Be ready to speak to the Zworfins and present your opinion together.  As a team you need to decide and present!

## Evaluation

You have worked very hard on this Operation Astronauts!  All three Missions took a lot of strength and brain power.  I knew you could do it.  Below is the rubric I will use to evaluate your hard work during each Mission.  Open up the Rubric in Resources below and hand into the teacher after you have completed Mission 3.

Category and Score					Score
				Total Score	

## Conclusion

The Zworfins thank you for all of your hard work during this Operation.  They were able to make an educated decision about moving to Mankato, Minnesota.  Now they understand more about web site evaluation and how important that skill is to have here on Earth.  Don't forget about the Five W's when you use web site information in the future.  Just because something is on the Internet, doesn't mean it is true.  Good job Astronauts!!!  You make the earthlings very proud!

## Teacher Page

I created this webquest to use with my fifth grade students.  As the library media specialist at my elementary school, I find that many children today believe what they find on the Internet or see on tv.  I think that teaching them how to truly evaluate a web site is a critical skill.  I used Kathy Shrock's Five W's of Web Site Evaluation as the basis for the mission forms.  I have also learned over the years that telling students how to do something isn't the same as them doing it themselves.  I really believe that this webquest will be a good learning experience for the students to be more critical of information and why someone has shared it on the web.  I have not tried it yet, so I realize there will be a learning curve as far as how long each mission will take the students to complete.  But I look forward to trying it out!

Sarah McDonald Library Media Specialist Lawson Elementary School Jefferson City, MO 65109 created Oct. 16, 2010

**Standards**

**Credits**

**Other**