Title of Lesson Plan: “Learning About the Solar System” from a Unit on Earth/Space Science

Materials/Resources: Materials needed to complete this lesson include The Planets in Our Solar System by Franklyn M. Branley, posterboard, a computer, construction paper, scissors, markers, and crayons. Students will provide their own writing utensil. The following Microsoft Accessibility tools will also be utilized:
  - Magnifier
  - Narrator
  - On-Screen Keyboard

Goals: The children’s book The Planets in Our Solar System by Franklyn M. Branley will be read by students to provide background information to students in a fun manner. A model of the solar system will also be on display as a visual aid for students. For students with visual impairment, the text will be available online and Magnifier will be used to increase the size of the text. For students with no visual ability at all, Narrator will be utilized to have the text read aloud to these students.

Learning Objectives: As a result of this lesson, students will be able to identify each of the planets of the solar system, as well as list numerous characteristics about each. Students will also make a sketch of a planet of their choice to present to the class. Students with limited mobility will utilize On-Screen Keyboard to complete the necessary steps in creating a model of their planets with captions and descriptions.

Purpose/Rationale: This lesson will provide students with knowledge of our solar system. They will learn the characteristics of each planet, and how each compares to our own planet Earth. It is important for students to realize that Earth is not the entire world.

This lesson corresponds with NYS Elementary Scientific Inquiry Standard #1, as students will “develop relationships among observations to construct descriptions of objects and events and to form their own tentative explanations of what they have observed.”

Teacher Preparation: To prepare for this lesson, I had to obtain a copy of The Planets in Our Solar System by Franklyn M. Branley from the local library. I had to purchase materials to build a model of the solar system to put on display for students. I also created worksheets for students to write
out their favorite planet, list a few characteristics of it, and draw an illustration of it.

**Modifications/Accommodations for Learners with Diverse Needs:** For students with a visual impairment, this would obviously be a difficult lesson. To accommodate for their needs, these students would utilize Magnifier to have the text enlarged to match their visual needs. For students with no visual ability at all, Narrator will be utilized so that the text can be read aloud to them. For students with limited mobility, the On-Screen Keyboard would be used so that they can control their activity on the computer via the mouse rather than typing on the keyboard.

**Arrangement of Physical Space and Students:** For the reading portion of the lesson, students will be seated at desks with adequate space to read without distractions. I will sit at the front of the classroom in a chair during this session. After this portion is complete, students will be spread throughout the room to provide ample space for completing their assignments. Students in need of the accessibility tools (Narrator, On-Screen Keyboard, Magnifier) will be situated at various computers accordingly. When the time comes to present, students will be seated on the floor in front of the student presenting.