



Reach for the Stars

	Time	Grade Level	Content Area (s)	Materials
	30–40 minutes	Grades K–5	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reach for the Stars Video• Timeline of Writing Instruments• Imagine the Future Poster Page• Markers/Crayons

Objective

Students will describe a common object that they use today and how it may have changed over time. Students will then identify an object they think will make their future better, explain it, and identify how science can help them get there.

Activity Outline

- 1 Play the video from NSTA for your class for the first 59 seconds to the point where the screen asks “Who can we count on for the future?”.
- 2 Draw their attention to the idea that our ability to explore space and has improved over time through science and technology. Ask the students to discuss the video clip and images and describe in their own words things that they have seen develop or improve over time that are both in the video and in their own lives. They may mention video games, play stations, or cell phones which are common objects to many elementary grade students.
- 3 Show students the timeline of writing instruments that they use in class and ask them to describe how one is different from the one prior to it. For example, what changed between the pencil and the pencil with the eraser? Was this improvement better? If so, why? What would they not be able to do if they didn’t have this improvement?
- 4 Discuss with the students that the inventors of these different instruments came up with the invention because they wanted to solve a problem or do something that needed a new tool. Can they think of and name any additional objects that fit the description of technology that was improved?
- 5 Ask the students to imagine the future and identify an object that they think would make their future better if it were to exist. Ask them to create a poster that describes this object and shows an illustration of it. They should identify what the object is and why they think it is needed. In addition to the poster image which could be drawn, a collage, computer generated or use any additional media, ask the students to complete the statement of “Science will be needed to imagine this future because...”

Imagine the Future

“Science will be needed to imagine this future because...”

Timeline of Writing Instruments

