

Title

The History of SETI

Objective:

To research and understand the history of the SETI institute and their role in our understanding of space and search for extraterrestrial life. To explore and research items that once were thought of as science fiction that has now become real.

Materials:

<http://archive.seti.org/seti/seti-background/>
<http://www.jb.man.ac.uk/research/seti/phoenix.html>
<http://www.seti.org/seti-institute/project/details/hrms-and-history-seti>
<http://www.seti.org/seti-institute/weekly-lecture/seti-institute-history-institute-today-and-plans-future>

Powerpoint on the History of the SETI Institute
Science Fiction or Real Research Worksheet
Grading Rubric for project on designing own science fiction item

Introduction:

Play Starship Grissom Episode #1
Play the introduction video for social studies episode 1.

Lesson:

Go over the history of SETI PowerPoint and discuss with students whether or not there is a possibility of life on other planets and why they think scientists believe there might be. Then talk about how what seemed like science fiction at one time is becoming real today now that education and technology have caught up with our imaginations.

Conclusion:

Pass out the research worksheet for is it sci-fi or real to have students complete at home for homework.

Extension: Have students create and explain their idea for an item or device that would be considered science fiction or impossible now that might not be in the future once technology and education have caught up with their imagination.

Modifications: Do 1 – 3 with the students as examples before independent work on Is it Sci-Fi or Real worksheet.
