Stellar Objects Layer in Google Sky

Directions: Students are to research at least two stellar objects that were found by the observer/observatory that there were assigned earlier. Each placemark should discuss general information about the stellar object and address the research questions, such as its evolution

Time Cycle: 2 cycles (about 3 weeks)

Deliverables: Google Sky layer about various stellar objects.

Total Points: 15 pts

List of Objects: Students should create placemarks about objects that their space-based telescopes discovered in the first part of this project. Types of objects may include extra-solar planets, comets, black holes, white dwarfs, brown dwarfs, and other stellar bodies, such as one of the Messner objects.

General Questions: (Who, What, Where, When, Why)

1. Who discovered the object? Was it discovered by more than one person? Discuss the controversy?
2. When was the object discovered?
3. Where is it located in the sky? (declination, right ascension, light years from Earth)
4. What general characteristics are used to classify the object?

Discovery Questions:

1. What type of telescope discovered it and what about its improved technology aided in the objects discovery?
2. Does it have any unusual characteristics that made it difficult to classify?
3. Why is it important to our understanding of stellar evolution?

Rubric

Item	Points Possible	Points Earned
Content: Each placemark contains 1-2 paragraphs of 5-7 sentences each that answers the general and discovery questions. Placemark content is arranged logically and the student's writing is compelling, enticing the reader to use the links to learn more. The writing is free of errors.	5	
Icons: An appropriate icon for the subject matter was used. The size, color and style of the icon are easily noticed in Earth. Icon labels are clear, concise and have no spelling or grammar mistakes. Title case was used. Custom icons can be found at: http://www.iconarchives.com	1	
Links: The student has provided at least one link to an outside source for each paragraph. These links could connect the reader with research facilities, journal article, or online image databases.	2	
Pictures: Images are not larger than 400 and not less than 200 in width. Images are clear, not fuzzy and compliment the text of the placemark. Appropriate attribution for each image taken from the internet or an online research database is given under the image.	2	
File Management: Students have created a folder on the schools' network drive for the project and have saved their work to the project folder. Students have appropriately saved all objects in the layer as a KMZ file. Students will upload their project to the First Class workgroup for their class.	1	
XHTML Code: Students have appropriately used code to layout their placemark including page layout tags, line break tags to separate pictures from text, paragraph tags to separate paragraphs, and image tags to adjust the size of the image to fit the placemark and to provide appropriate attribution for the image. No code errors are visible in the placemark when viewed in Earth.	3	
Total	15	