Lesson Title and Identifier:
Title: Astronomy and Me: Nuevo Teotihuacán
Identifier: 3.7

Module: Astronomy
Subject Area (Unit): Astronomy
Concept: Vocabulary
  Mesoamerican
  Nuevo
  Aztecs
  Mayan
  Olmec
  Top View

Objectives:
The task will introduce the impact society has on science, engineering and the environment.

Keywords: Science, Engineering, Culture, Mesoamerican, Nuevo, Aztecs, Mayan, Olmec

PA Academic Standards:
  Science  3.1.7 Unifying Themes
          3.2.7 Inquiry and Design
  Math    2.3 Measurement and Estimation
          2.9 Geometry

Grade Level: 6th
Setting/Group Size: 30 students
Duration/Time Required: 1-2 class periods
Materials List (include safety equipment if applicable)
Pencil
Protractors & Compasses
Scissors
Methods and Procedure:

**Step 1:** Review with students some aspects about Mesoamerican cultures, such as food, commerce, government, agriculture, and religion. (They should have already studied Latin and South America in their social studies course.) Discuss the design and layout of Teotihuacán. Present the students with the challenge of designing a New (Nuevo) Teotihuacán.

**Step 2:** Present the students with the following design parameters:
1. Each team must select a Mesoamerican culture.
2. The city must be designed around a celestial event. (If possible, have them do some library research on a Mesoamerican culture. This will given them an understanding of what the Aztecs/Mayan/Olmec/etc cultures thought was important.)
3. They will be given a location, along with information about the resources found in the area.
4. The city must hold at least 500 people.
5. The buildings should be consistent with typical Mesoamerican structures. (i.e. no steel skyscrapers.)
6. The city needs to include housing, temples, hospitals, markets, roads, running water, waste removal, and a town square.
7. Students must keep a log of their decisions and thought processes.

**Step 3:** Have the students complete “top views” of their city designs.

**Step 4:** Have the students outline their plans for maintaining their natural resources, disposing of waste, and keeping their city clean.

**Step 5:** If time permits, have the students build a model of their city and present it to the class.

**Assessment**

Students will be evaluated on a scale from 0 to 4 on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Work</th>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Task Completion</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
<th>Quality of Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Authors**

Connie Gomez, Dara Kusic, Donna Barreca, Pat Wilkes