



# DISCIPLINES – WHAT DO YOU KNOW? WHAT DO YOU ASK?

## Preparation

- Download the Disciplines Chart

## Purpose

This activity asks you to decide what kinds of questions scholars from different disciplines might ask about an object or a significant event. The goal is to help you solidify your understanding of the different disciplines, but more important, to help you start thinking in an interdisciplinary fashion. Additionally, this activity should help you work on an important skill: the ability to construct researchable questions.

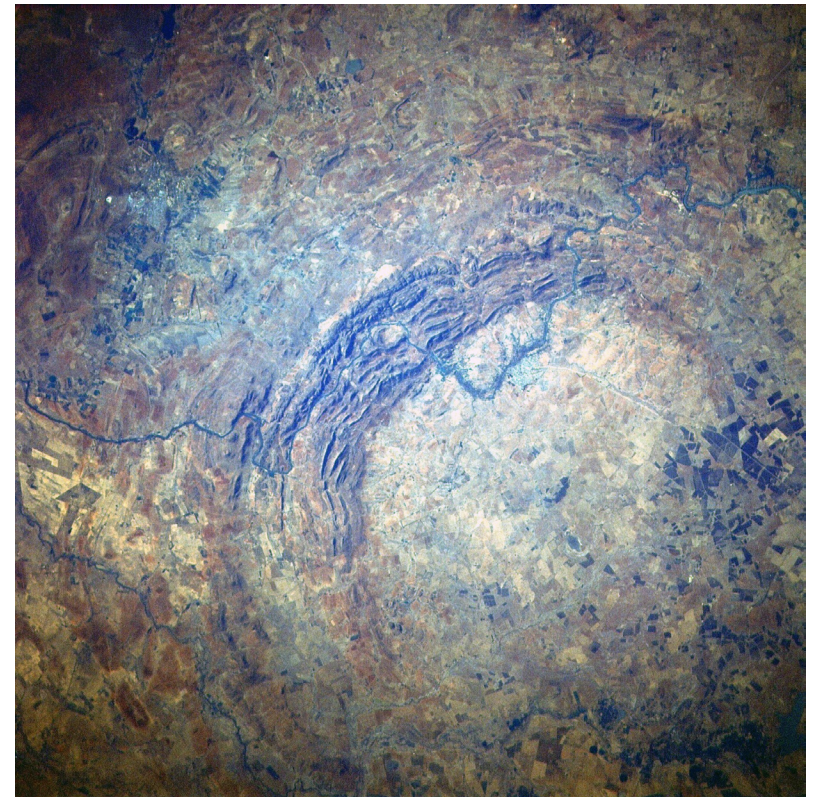
## Process

In this activity, you will once again be asked to put together a research team to try to figure out what happened when a huge asteroid hit the Earth (South Africa, to be specific) an estimated 2 billion years ago. This asteroid caused a massive crater in the Earth, now named the Vredefort Crater, or Vredefort Dome. It has an estimated radius of 118 miles, making it the world's largest known impact structure. It was even declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2005!

You will be given nine discipline cards to help you construct your team: agriculture, astrophysics, anthropology, archaeology, biology, chemistry, cosmology, geology, and conservation science. Take a few minutes to review the cards and ask questions about any of them – you should be familiar enough to be able to assume the perspective of the different disciplines as you work to construct your team.

Once you're in your group—and before trying to form a team—discuss what you want to know about this asteroid impact. What you choose to ask about the event is directly related to who is doing the asking – so, make sure the topic of study and your disciplines are aligned!

Be prepared to share your team makeup and questions with your class!



*Vredefort Dome, Free State, South Africa, by Júlio Reis, public domain.*

# DISCIPLINES – WHAT DO YOU KNOW? WHAT DO YOU ASK? Name: Date:

**Directions:** Your job is to assemble the best research team possible to most deeply understand an object or event (you must include at least three disciplines). Fill out this worksheet to construct your research team and plan their approach to better understanding the object or event.

Object or Event: \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>Discipline:</b> _____</p> <p>What would someone from this discipline know or want to know about this object or event?</p>	<p><b>Discipline:</b> _____</p> <p>What would someone from this discipline know or want to know about this object or event?</p>	<p><b>Discipline:</b> _____</p> <p>What would someone from this discipline know or want to know about this object or event?</p>
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What are the two most important scientific and historical questions your team would ask about the event or object? Make sure the questions include the interests of each discipline.

Why is this team the best for the job?









