

This is the lesson plan I used to guide students through the creation of the design of their own mission patch.

**Materials:**

[Mission Patch planning guide](#)

[Mission patch template](#) (p. 3&4 from the National Air and Space Museum handout)

**Introduction:**

Define what a mission patch is and how it is worn. We discussed how each NASA crew meets with a professional artist to help design the mission patch that is specific to their team.

I specifically chose these patches to show the students:

Gemini 5 - to show the students the 'pioneer of space' badge

Expedition 34/35 - to show students the guitar pick shape

Artemis patch - to show students the future of space exploration

**The Mission Patch Instructions:**

1. After the introduction to mission patches was complete, I then talked to the students about my zero-gravity experiments. The students were all going to make a mission patch that represented my 'mission.'
2. I made a list of requirements for the older students. The younger students were just asked to make a mission patch that reflected what they were interested in - it could be just some space objects (as the 3K had just gotten done with their space unit, and other younger grades had done some space work, as well). The older students were asked to have these 4 items:
  - a. They must include a religious artifact - we are a Catholic school, so this is how I asked the students to represent our school on the patch.
  - b. The students must have a musical aspect to it - my experiments are all based on music, so I wanted that represented.
  - c. The mission patch must have an element of the sky in it, since I am going to be flying, and my 'mission' is on a zero-g aircraft.
  - d. The students needed to include the mission name on the patch (we had a separate naming contest earlier in the month with the middle school students to name the mission).
3. The students were to use the planning guide to fill in their mission patch ideas before drawing on the template.

**Extension:**

My school had agreed to fund a project in which a winning patch would be embroidered and distributed to every student in the school. In order to determine the winner, we had a team of teachers representing the different age groups narrow down the artwork to 10 semi-finalists. A different set of teachers then narrowed down the semi-finalist pool to 3 finalists. A google form was set up for every student in the school to vote on which of the three finalists' designs they

liked the best. The design with the most votes was the winner. My school then sent the design onto [www.custompatchfactory.com](http://www.custompatchfactory.com), who did a quick, inexpensive, and quality job recreating the design into a patch for each student and staff member.