



## Inspiring Great Futures for Young Children

### Growing Up Great Together Under One Big Sky Fact Sheet

#### OVERVIEW

The *Growing Up Great Together Under One Big Sky* mobile planetarium tour features an inflatable dome that introduces children to the night sky while forging cross-cultural connections. Inside the dome, children ages 3 to 5 view a special planetarium show – *One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure* – created by Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind *Sesame Street*<sup>TM</sup> that helps kids grow smarter, stronger and kinder, and its partners, with major support from the PNC Foundation.

As part of *PNC Grow Up Great*<sup>®</sup> – a \$350 million, multi-year, bilingual initiative that began in 2004 to help prepare young children for success in school and life – the portable dome travels to early childhood education centers and other organizations in markets served by PNC where children may not otherwise have the opportunity to visit a planetarium.

#### FEATURES

- **One World, One Sky planetarium show:** Through the lens of astronomy, children join Elmo, Big Bird and Hu Hu Zhu – a Muppet from the Chinese co-production of *Sesame Street* – as they explore the night sky and take an imaginary trip from *Sesame Street* to the moon. In the process, they learn some basic principles of math, geometry and physics, and about each other's culture.
- **Educational tools:** At the *Growing Up Great Together Under One Big Sky* mobile planetarium show, each child receives a daytime/nighttime activity poster, which is trilingual (English, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish) and has reusable, glow-in-the dark stars to display at home. Prior to the event, teachers at the schools and centers receive astronomy-based curriculum kits to share with students before the dome arrives, as well as follow-up activities and ideas for after it departs.
- **Words are Here, There, and Everywhere:** In partnership with Sesame Workshop, PNC launched this initiative to encourage parents and caregivers to talk with their children as a means to build vocabulary. Children will take home a "Home-School Connection" activity that incorporates ways for them to learn new words related to astronomy, science and other early learning concepts exhibited as part of the *One World, One Sky* experience.

View the *One World, One Sky* "How Big Is the Sky?" video, highlighting all of the event elements at [www.pncgrowupgreat.com/oneworldonesky](http://www.pncgrowupgreat.com/oneworldonesky).

#### EDUCATIONAL GOAL

- **To provide young children with an age-appropriate introduction to astronomy and encourage positive attitudes toward science.** For example, students have the opportunity to interact with the program by drawing constellations and counting the stars that form them. Also, when Elmo and Hu Hu Zhu "travel" to the moon, they discover some basic but surprising scientific facts, such as they can't fly a kite on the moon because there is no wind.
- **To foster cross-cultural appreciation between children.** For instance, Elmo and Hu Hu Zhu teach each other how to say words such as "star" and "moon" in their native language and later discover that children in both countries enjoy flying kites. The program aims to nurture a child's natural sense of wonder while bridging cultures to enable children of different nations to both learn more about one another and discover common connections

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## FACTS

- The dome is made of durable, lightweight fabric and can be set up in less than 30 minutes. There is room for 35 students to sit on the floor and a few chairs.
- The dome is 16.5' wide and approximately 10' high. It is used indoors and requires a minimum area of 20' x 20' with a ceiling height of at least 12'. The blower that inflates the dome provides a constant flow of fresh air that keeps the audience cool.
- The 27-minute planetarium show is a high-definition video animation with full-dome stereo sound.
- Three mobile planetarium tours serve PNC markets. The exhibits travel in conjunction with the school calendar, operating August – November and January - June.
- In 2017, the three exhibits toured approximately 35 markets in 16 states and District of Columbia, had approximately 939 showings over 206 days, traveled more than 35,000 miles and distributed more than 25,000 activity posters. In the process, approximately 22,033 students attended the planetarium show.

**One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure** was created as part of a global partnership between Sesame Workshop, the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, the Beijing Planetarium and the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, NJ.

- **The program received additional major funding from the National Science Foundation** with additional support from the W.L.S. Spencer Foundation, China Association for Science and Technology and the National Natural Science Foundation of China.
- **Additional outreach resources** include a Parent/Child Brochure, Planetarium Educator Materials and Teacher Materials. All are available at [www.sesamestreet.com/toolkits/oneworldonesky](http://www.sesamestreet.com/toolkits/oneworldonesky)

## About PNC Grow Up Great

With a focus on underserved children from birth to age 5, *Grow Up Great* and *Crezca con Éxito* provide innovative opportunities that assist families, educators and community partners to enhance children's learning and development. Extensive research indicates that the returns on investments in high-quality early education and school readiness initiatives are significant and long lasting – impacting our children, our society and the health of our economy for generations to come.

For more information, please visit [www.pncgrowupgreat.com](http://www.pncgrowupgreat.com).

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