

STEMPOWER NEWSLETTER

WEEK 4 - RESEARCH AND DESIGN

- After deciding to adopt Stella Vosniadou's research as the basis for our game late last week, the team started the week off by enumerating some of the common misconceptions children have about the earth and the sun, pictured on the right. We then began working on a design that gives kids the information they need to break down their old, flawed mental models of how the earth and the sun function and replace them with a more accurate model.

- The initial design for our game, currently titled "Sleepy Busy Planet", came together by the middle of the week. Four characters spread out across planet earth are collaborating to build a top secret ultimate project. Each has something they can contribute to make their shared dream a reality, but they can only work when they are awake. The player must decide how far to rotate the earth to wake up each character as different resources are needed throughout the secret project. As the game continues, the player will discover what lies behind the top secret curtain. Our preliminary design is shown on page 2.

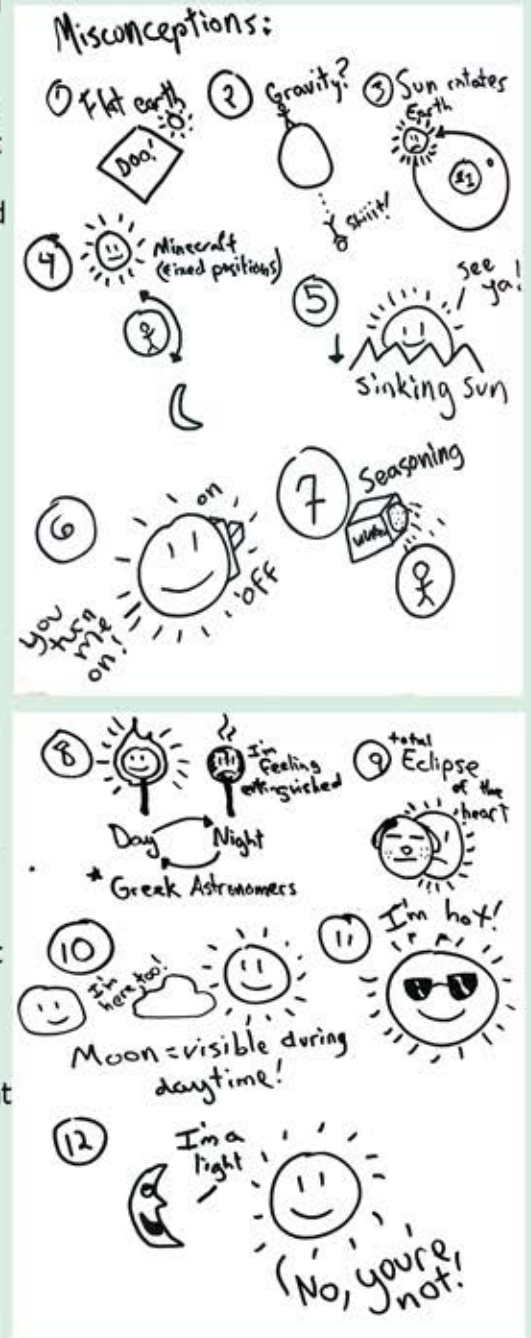
- We have pitched our design to our advisors and other members of the faculty, including Anthony Daniels, and have gotten a lot of positive, constructive feedback. Anthony also agreed to record a voiceover for our game's introduction.

- We've finished all of our branding obligations and our new public website is now online for all to see!

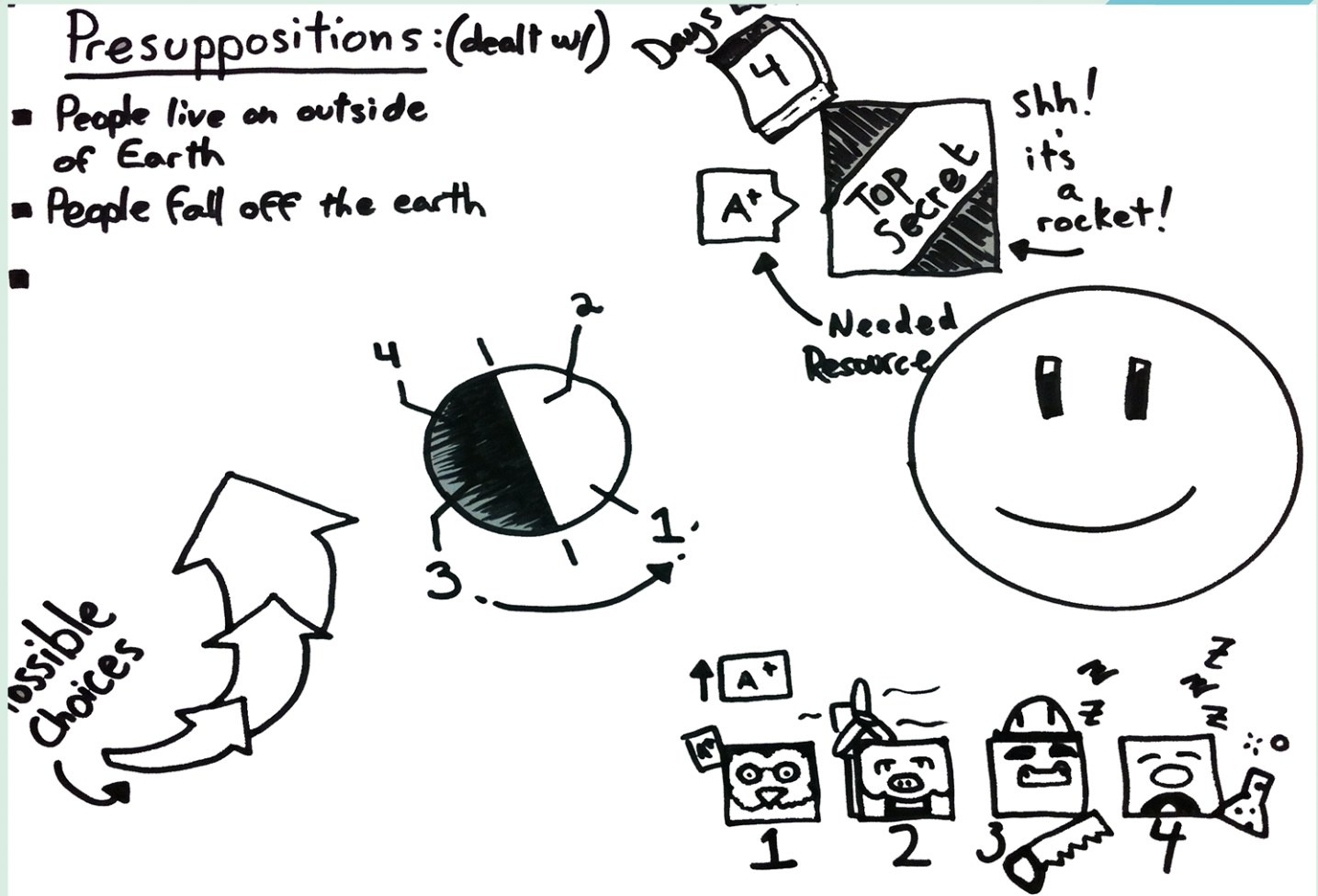
- The team has also been ramping up with a Unity3D gold spike that we hope to show next week at quarters. After letting some pipeline problems go unanswered for far too long on his project last semester, Ken vowed to not let that happen again. He has been working to analyze our workflow and divide up art and programming tasks to improve efficiency and not let the desire to hurry and make up for lost time lead to mistakes that could hurt us later in the semester.

That's all for week 4! Our team's quarters presentation is next Wednesday. Then we move on to making something stellar to show at halves!

Below: Misconceptions kids have about the Earth and Sun



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Above: A mockup of our design for Sleepy Busy Planet

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