



the Space Place

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NEWS AND NOTES FOR FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATORS

The Space Place is a NASA website for elementary school-aged kids, their teachers, and their parents.

It's colorful!

It's dynamic!

It's fun!

It's rich with science, technology, engineering, and math content!

It's informal.

It's meaty.

It's easy to read and understand.

It's also in Spanish.

And it's free!

It has over 160 separate modules for kids, including hands-on projects, interactive games, animated cartoons, and amazing facts about space and Earth science and technology.

More and more of our readers are using mobile devices. For that reason, we have recently optimized the design of The Space Place to work well on even a mobile phone screen. You will see only what fits comfortably (at a readable size) on even the smallest screen, with the rest of the page accessible at your touch. Here's what else we've been doing . . .

What's new?

Why would a pigeon racer phone the Space Weather Prediction Center In Boulder, Colorado, for a report before entering a prized pigeon into a big race?



It's surprising how many ways the Sun affects Earth and its living things. Solar storms can cause "bad space weather" on Earth. Bad space weather can damage communication and navigation satellites, power grids, and hurt astronauts on the Space Station. But that's not all. Read this new article on The Space Place to find out why homing pigeons and their human handlers might care about space weather. Go to spaceplace.nasa.gov/pigeons.

Un rescate en español



We have all heard stories in which it took many days and a lot of trouble and expense to rescue or find people who were lost in the wilderness or at sea. Sometimes, the rescue comes too late. Here's a story with a much happier ending, thanks to advance planning and the help of a well-designed and managed system involving weather satellites and a ground support system. This new feature on Space Place is in both English and Spanish, with Spanish perhaps being the story's original form. Go to spaceplace.nasa.gov/sarsat/sp.

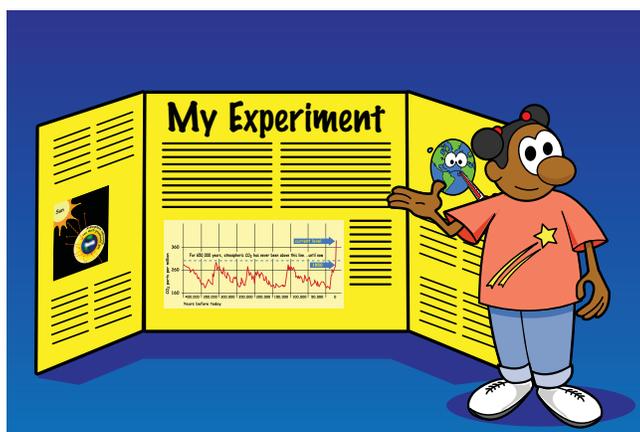
Spotlight on a dream career

A Mars mission is good example to show how different scientists and engineers can be. The engineers build and operate the spacecraft, and the scientists determine what information the it will gather once it is on the ground or in orbit. Engineers and scientists have different priorities. So there is a special kind of engineer who designs and sets up tools that allow these two types of people to work smoothly together. That's

the job of our latest Mission Chronicles blogger. Sarah Milkovich gives a unique view of how a diverse mission operations and science team can work together even though they are spread all around the country. Check it out at spaceplace.nasa.gov/mission-chronicles/#milkovich.



For the classroom



No matter what kind of science lesson or activity you are doing with your class, the most important lesson is how to think like a scientist. Science isn't just a bunch of facts. And although there is a formal process known as the scientific method, it is not always necessary to follow it in order to "do science." So what is science? That is the weighty topic, dealt with lightly at spaceplace.nasa.gov/science. Along with this discussion is an introduction to doing a science fair project, spaceplace.nasa.gov/science-fair. Although it may be a bit late in the year to think about science fairs, such projects can also be encouraged just to satisfy students' ordinary curiosity—or, if that isn't enough—for extra credit!

For out-of-school time

A menu full of games will entertain kids all summer, while sneaking in a few informal science and technology lessons—but don't let them know about this latter advantage! See them all in one place at spaceplace.nasa.gov/menu/play.

Also, don't forget about our mobile apps over the summer. Space Place Prime updates daily with new images, videos and articles from The Space Place.

Games "Satellite Insight" and "Comet Quest" are also fun challenges. Find out more at spaceplace.nasa.gov/ios. (Sorry, so far they are only for iPhone and iPad.)



Make these days special

May 3: National Space Day.

Pick a beautiful space poster to download and print for the classroom at spaceplace.nasa.gov/posters/#stars.

May 7: National Teacher Day.

The students should be celebrating you today. On other days, our resources for Parents & Educators should help. Visit spaceplace.nasa.gov/menu/parents-and-educators.

May 12: Mother's Day.

Our tortilla spacecraft contest continues to inspire young engineers. Students can make Mom a spacecraft for lunch today, getting ideas from spaceplace.nasa.gov/tortilla-spacecraft.

June 8: World Oceans Day.

Pick from a diverse set of ocean-related pages and activities at spaceplace.nasa.gov/search/ocean.

June 16: Father's Day.

Any dad would love a Cloud Mobile or a Galactic Mobile. Check them out at spaceplace.nasa.gov/cloud-mobile or spaceplace.nasa.gov/galactic-mobile.

June 21: Summer Solstice, first day of summer.

There's a simple explanation of why we have seasons at spaceplace.nasa.gov/seasons.

We love feedback

Thanks to the many of you who have written to info@spaceplace.nasa.gov to tell us how you use our website in your teaching and informal work with kids. We are happy to be able to bring you this valuable resource to enhance and supplement your curriculum.

