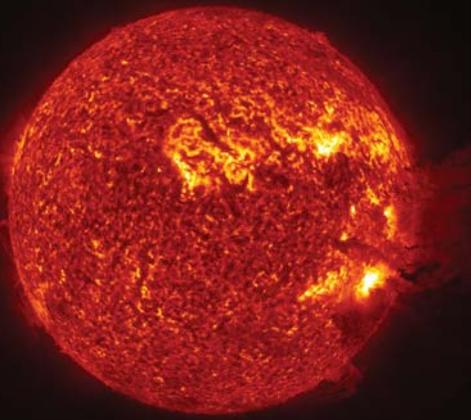


Credit: NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center/Solar Dynamics Observatory



The Sun unleashes a solar flare with a spectacular coronal mass ejection. Solar storms like this can cause problems on Earth. How do these storms begin? Find out at [spaceplace.nasa.gov/story-superstar](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/story-superstar).



# JANUARY 2012

[spaceplace.nasa.gov](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>  <b>Galileo saw Saturn's rings</b> through a telescope in 1610. Could a spaceship land on Saturn's rings? <b>New Years Day</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Mars rover Spirit</b> landed on Mars in 2004. It lasted much longer than expected, despite the harsh weather on this popular "vacation destination."	<b>5</b> <b>Earth at perihelion</b> , the time of year when it is closest to the Sun. Why do planets go around the Sun?	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>In 1610, Galileo</b> discovered Jupiter's four largest moons. Explore these moons and play some mini-games with the Solar System Explorer.
<b>8</b> <b>Physicist Stephen J. Hawking</b> was born this day in 1942. He thinks and writes about black holes. Play Black Hole Rescue!	<b>9</b> 	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Amelia Earhart</b> became the first woman to fly solo across the Pacific in 1935. How did her airplane stay up?	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>The Stardust</b> mission brought samples of Comet Wild 2 home to Earth in 2006. How did it capture the samples?	<b>16</b>  <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Ben Franklin's birthday</b> , 1706. Ben played the violin. Maybe he played a fine one made during the "little ice age."	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Penguin Awareness Day</b> . So far, penguins have managed to survive fairly well. What other species of birds are not so lucky?	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Mars rover Opportunity</b> landed on Mars in 2004. Its job was to look for signs of liquid water, which could mean life!	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>National Puzzle Day</b> . Unscramble beautiful Earth-as-Art puzzles.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 				<b>National Thank You Month</b> . To thank your teachers for their wonderful work, we have downloadable posters of space and Earth.

Month of January: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/posters](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/posters)  
 Jan. 1: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/dr-marc-solar-system](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/dr-marc-solar-system)  
 Jan. 4: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/planet-weather](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/planet-weather)  
 Jan. 5: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/dr-marc-solar-system](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/dr-marc-solar-system)  
 Jan. 7: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/solar-system-explorer](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/solar-system-explorer)  
 Jan. 8: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/black-hole-rescue](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/black-hole-rescue)

Jan. 11: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/dr-marc-technology](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/dr-marc-technology)  
 Jan. 15: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/tails-of-wonder](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/tails-of-wonder)  
 Jan. 17: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/violins](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/violins)  
 Jan. 20: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/migration](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/migration)  
 Jan. 25: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/dr-marc-solar-system](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/dr-marc-solar-system)  
 Jan. 29: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/spuzzled](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/spuzzled)