



NASA SpacePlace

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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 130 (and
counting) separate
modules for kids,
including hands-on
projects, interactive
games, animated
cartoons, and
amazing facts about
space and Earth
science and
technology.

At The Space Place, we're curious about the whole Universe, including our own solar system and our own planet. This issue focuses on some of our Earth-related resources in observance of Earth Day, April 22.

**Here's the latest on
spaceplace.nasa.gov . . .**

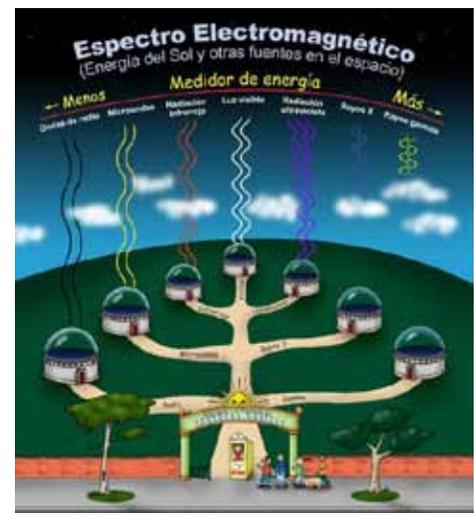


Weather can be puzzling. What's it going to do next? If only we could learn to solve it as easily as the weather picture "Slider" puzzles on The Space Place (spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/goes/slyder). "Slider" puzzles are an engaging way to feature colorful and informative images.

At The Space Place, we have created our own "Slider" style and have put it to use on dramatic ground- and space-based images of Earth and space weather phenomena. Puzzle solvers can choose their favorite image and a level of difficulty. Whether they solve their chosen puzzle or not, puzzlers will find abundant weather enlightenment.

Space Place en Español

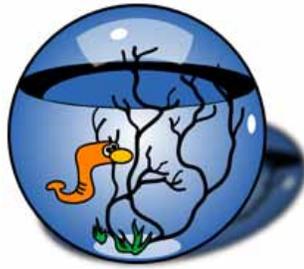
Los Chicos de Space Place y la Tierra de las Ventanas Mágicas (The Space Place Kids and the Land of the Magic Windows) is a colorful introduction to the electromagnetic spectrum. With stops along the way to look through the different "magic windows," visitors look at celestial images as seen by different types of telescopes using different wavelengths of light. For learning the English or Spanish names of these kinds of light (radio waves, microwaves, infrared, ultraviolet, x-ray, etc.), it is simple to toggle back and forth between English and Spanish.



Spotlight on "Cool Subjects"

There's more than one way to cut the 130+ modules on The Space Place. In addition to the format categories—games, animations, cartoon "talk shows," hands-on projects, Podcasts, classroom curriculum articles, and ask Dr. Marc pages—The Space Place is also divided up by topic areas that include all the formats.

Earth Day is coming up soon (April 22), so it might be a good time to check out the “Earth” menu at spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/cs_earth.shtml. Take your pick of Earth-related topics or formats. Do a hands-on project about greenhouse gases or play a game about the weather. Solve word find puzzles related to Earth as a complete ecosystem. Or make El Niño pudding! You will be ready ever after to explain what El Niño is all about.



Other topic categories are planets and the solar system; stars, galaxies, and black holes; laws of the universe; and space technology.

For the Classroom

Classroom curriculum articles developed by NASA’s Space Place team and originally published in the International Technology Education Association’s (ITEA) journal *The Technology Teacher* are archived in the educators’ area of The Space Place website. Several of these activities incorporate math concepts, and we have pulled those out and given them their own menu page, spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/educators/math.shtml.

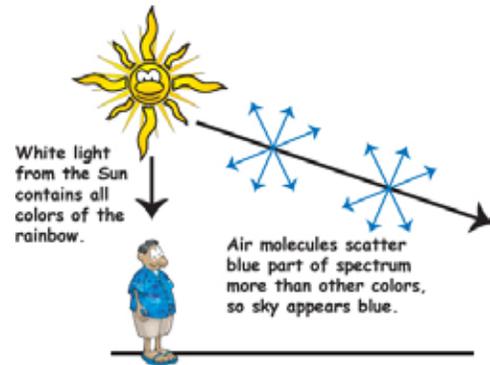
In particular, the activity titled “Write the Book on Weather Metrics” (spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/educators/GOES_weather_book.pdf) makes explicit the connection between the weather we all experience every day and how scientists—we—can study the world in a systematic manner. We select a specific phenomenon—water falling out of the sky, for example—and agree how to measure it. Students create their own little book, one weather term per page, with definition, image, measurements, graphs, description or image of measurement technology, or any other information they find interesting.



Dates to Celebrate

April 10: Encourage a Young Writer Day.

The sky is an infinite source of inspiration. But why is the sky blue? And why is it black at night? To the tune of the Beatles’ “Ob la di, ob la da,” a new song explains it all in the activity article “Singin’ the Black and Blues” (spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/educators/teachers_page2.shtml#bluesky).



Invite students to write their own poem or essay about their bluest sky or blackest night.

April 18, 1912. First crossword book published.

Avoid all those messy eraser crumbs by doing the online crosswords at The Space Place—one about telescopes (spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/ki_do1.shtml) and one about gravitational waves (spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/lisaxword/lisaxword.shtml). But don’t worry. After reading the simple articles, students will have all the answers.

April 22: Earth Day.

Get lots of inspiration for special Earth Day activities on the “Earth” cool subject menu page, spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/cs_earth.shtml.

May 10: Mother’s Day.

Make a Cloud Mobile (spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/clouds) or Galactic Mobile (spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/galex_make1.shtml) for Mother.

May 12, 1978: Hurricanes get named for men too.

From World War II until this date, hurricanes always got women’s names. Not fair! Find out how these monster storms form at spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/goes/hurricanes.

May 18, 1980: Mt. St. Helens erupted.

Download, print, and display in your classroom these fascinating, simply captioned volcano images from space. Go to spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/educators/teachers_earth_volcano_images.shtml.

And don’t forget . . .



This is the International Year of Astronomy, with many special events in museums, planetariums, and cities all over the world. If you are planning an event, The Space Place website can be a valuable resource. Let us know how you are using The Space Place in your events or lessons. We may be able to supply you with Space Place bookmarks, stickers, and other materials. E-mail your request to spaceplace@jpl.nasa.gov.