



NASA Space Place

Educator Newsletter

January-February 2017 / Vol. 10, Issue 1

NEWS AND NOTES FOR FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATORS

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

Don't forget to subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter, the NASA Space Place Gazette!

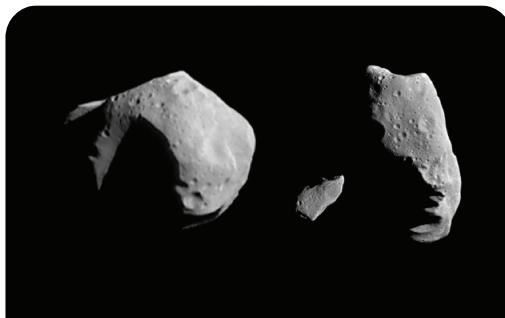
<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/subscribe>

New!

What is an asteroid?

Asteroids are small, rocky objects that orbit the sun. While there are many asteroids in our solar system, most of them live in the main asteroid belt--a region between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. But where did they come from, and are they all the same? Find out here!

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/asteroid>



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New!

What's the difference between an asteroid and a meteor?

Both are types of space rocks, but the difference between the two depends on how close they are to Earth's surface.

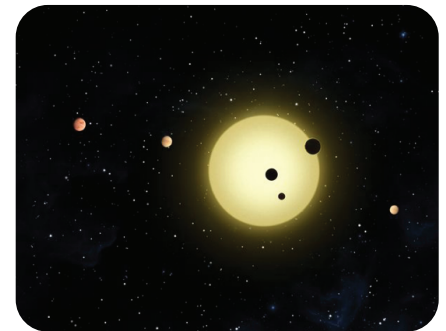
<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/asteroid-or-meteor>

New!

Exoplanets

All of the planets in our solar system orbit around the sun. Planets that orbit around other stars are called exoplanets. How do we know they exist? Check out our new article!

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/all-about-exoplanets>



Be sure to also check out our new video and poster about exoplanets!

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/exoplanet-snap>

New!

Moon Cookies

Make our delicious no-bake moon cookies! Follow along with our video for simple instructions.

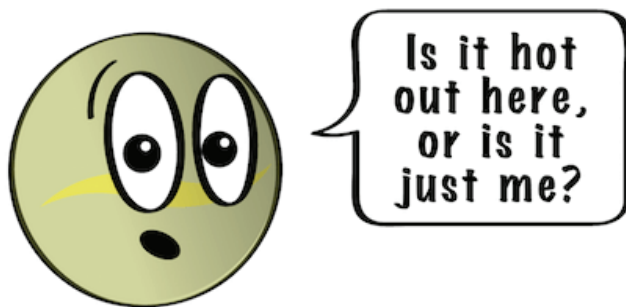
<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/moon-cookies>



All About Planets

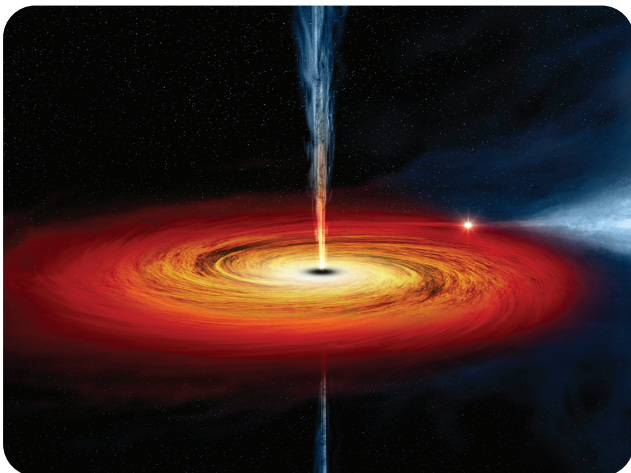
Our solar system is home to eight amazing planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. No two of them are the same! Some are small and rocky; some are freezing cold. Learn all about each planet and what makes each one unique!

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/planets>



What are black holes?

And are they really as scary as they sound? A black hole is an area of such immense gravity that nothing—not even light—can escape from it. Check out our short video and poster to learn more. <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/black-holes>



Special Days

Noteworthy days in NASA and space history you can observe in your classroom.

Jan. 7 - In 1610, Galileo discovered several of Jupiter's moons!

Jupiter has many moons. Have you heard of its moon Io?

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/io-tides>

Jan. 16 — NASA selected the first U.S. women astronauts in 1978.

See some photos of astronauts in action!

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/gallery-technology>

Jan. 24 — Voyager 2 encountered Uranus on this day in 1986.

Did you know that Uranus has faint rings? Learn all about this blue planet here!

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/all-about-uranus>

Jan. 25 — The Opportunity rover landed on Mars in 2004.

Why were Spirit and Opportunity sent to Mars in the first place?

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/mars-spirit-opportunity>

Feb. 6 — In 1971, Alan Shepard played golf on the moon.

How far away is the moon? The answer might surprise you!

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/moon-distance>

Feb. 18 — Pluto was discovered in 1930 by astronomer Clyde Tombaugh.

Why is Pluto no longer considered a planet?

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/ice-dwarf>

