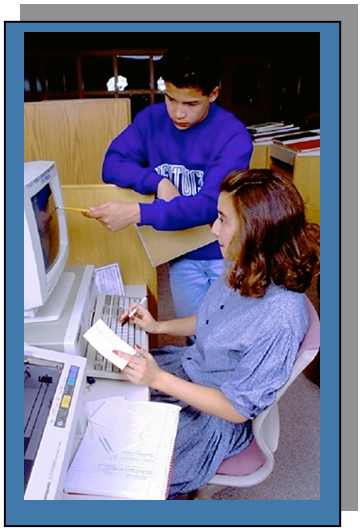
Unlocking the Mysteries:
Science on the Edge of Our Solar System

Internet Resources



Discovery Program home page: http://discovery.nasa.gov
Discovery Dispatch (quarterly newsletters with information on mission status): http://discovery.nasa.gov/newsletters_archive.html

Many of the Discovery Program missions feature education sections on their Web sites:

Missions to Comets & Asteroids

- NEAR: http://near.jhuapl.edu/NEAR/index.html
- Stardust: http://stardust.jpl.nasa.gov/
- CONTOUR: http://contour2002.org/
- Deep Impact: http://deepimpact.jpl.nasa.gov/
- Dawn: http://dawn.ucla.edu

Missions to the Moon, the Planets, and the Sun

- Mars Pathfinder: http://mpfwww.jpl.nasa.gov/MPF/default.html
- Lunar Prospector: http://lunar.arc.nasa.gov/
- Genesis: http://genesismission.jpl.nasa.gov/
- MESSENGER: http://messenger.jhuapl.edu/

Mission to locate planets outside our solar system (extrasolar planets)

- Kepler: www.kepler.arc.nasa.gov

Experiments and Activities

Mission	Activity Title	Topic
NEAR	Ping-Pong Altimetry Lab	Learn the basic concepts behind the use and working of a laser altimeter for the study of solar system topography.
Stardust	Think Small in a Big Way	Model crater formation. Impacts on Earth can create craters and affect ecosystems (possibly including the extinction of the dinosaurs).
CONTOUR	Scale Model Comet	Learn some of the components of an active comet, and the scale of an active comet relative to the Earth.
Deep Impact	Make a Comet and Eat It	Develop a comet model that you can eat; trade "comets" and pretend to be an instrument (spectrometer) on the Deep Impact Spacecraft.
Dawn	Spacecraft Model	Build a model of the Dawn spacecraft.
Mars Pathfinder	Internet Research—Technology Lab Sheet	Research Mars images and scientists.
Lunar Prospector	Lunar Land Forms	Identify landforms on the surface of the Moon using orbital, Apollo spacecraft photographs.

Genesis	Modeling Solar Wind Collection: A Sticky Situation	Model how different materials collect different solar wind particles.
MESSENGER	Staying Cool: Design Challenge	Design and build an effective sunshade for a model MESSENGER craft.
Kepler	Spacecraft Model	Build a model of the Kepler spacecraft.