



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY 2009

THE UNIVERSE : YOURS TO DISCOVER



How Teachers Can Get Involved in IYA

If you are a teacher, here are some ideas for how you and your students can participate in the International Year of Astronomy 2009, celebrating 400 years since Galileo began observing the heavens through his telescope.

Learn more about IYA2009 and keep up to date:

- Visit the international IYA2009 website and watch the movie trailer about the International Year of Astronomy 2009 with your students: (www.astronomy2009.org) Resource guides for educators can be found on this site at: (www.astronomy2009.org/resources/)
- Visit the U.S. IYA2009 website for new developments, programs, and materials: (www.astronomy2009.us) (and also see NASA's website at: astronomy2009.nasa.gov/)
- Visit the website of the IYA2009-affiliated TV program *400 Years of the Telescope* (www.pbs.org/400years/), watch the movie trailer, sign up for their newsletter about IYA2009 events and participate in the Astronomer in the Classroom Program by clicking on the For Teachers tab.
- Other free newsletters with IYA2009 and astronomy updates are written by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (www.astrosociety.org/pubs/newsletter.html especially "Universe in the Classroom" specifically for teachers) and Universe Today (www.universetoday.com/, sign up on the right-side toolbar).
- Use IYA2009 logos on your school website, newsletters, and science fair or science night materials as an "IYA Supporter"; U.S. logos are available at www.astronomy2009.us/newscenter/logo-graphics, and international logos are available at www.astronomy2009.org/resources/.

Check out these IYA2009 projects for the classroom:

- Participate in star counting events to raise awareness about dark skies and light pollution:
 - How Many Stars – an ongoing global experiment (www.sternhell.at)
 - Great World Wide Star Count, October 9-23, 2009, and October every year (www.starcount.org)
 - GLOBE at Night, March near new moon every year (www.globe.gov/GaN/)
 - Earth Hour, March every year (www.earthhour.org)
- Galileoscope (www.galileoscope.org)
Provide your students with the opportunity to build a simple telescope similar to Galileo's and to look at the same objects as Galileo did: observe the craters on the Moon, the phases of Venus, the moons of Jupiter, and the rings of Saturn. There are also free educational materials available for use with the Galileoscope-just click the Educate! tab.

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How Teachers Can Get Involved in IYA2009, cont.

- Use IYA Discovery guides (www.astrosociety.org/iya/guides.html) which include monthly hands-on activities that are related to NASA's featured celestial targets, and visit <http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/download-search.cfm> for a database of many astronomy education materials.

Find more astronomy activities for teachers:

- The Education Pages of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific have a lot of information about projects and activities teachers can get involved with and resource guides for materials they can use in the classroom: www.astrosociety.org/education.html
- The *Seeing in the Dark* PBS website has a long page of good activities for teachers: www.pbs.org/seeinginthedark/for-teachers/
- The National Optical Astronomy Observatories Education Page has information about their programs and activities, including Hands-on Optics: www.noao.edu/education/
- Check out "Telescopes from the Ground Up" by the folks at the Hubble Space Telescope: amazing-space.stsci.edu/resources/explorations/groundup/ (and see all their resources for education at: amazing-space.stsci.edu/)
- NASA's Space Science Education Resource Directory allows you to search out NASA educational activities by topic or grade level: teachspacescience.org
- Visit NASA's EPO's web comic strip which is a fun, educational tool with new episodes posted every Monday: epo.sonoma.edu/EposChronicles/

Get your community involved:

- Find an amateur astronomy group near you and ask them to co-sponsor a "star party" (telescope observing session) for your school. Websites to help find the group nearest you: www.skyandtelescope.com/community/organizations
www.astronomy.com/asy/community/groups/
www.astroleague.org/al/general/society.html
nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-map.cfm
- The "How to Host an IYA Event" web page has ideas and resources, such as templates to make an IYA 2-fold brochure and press release (www.astronomy2009.us/howtohost/).
- Visit a local planetarium (a theater where stars are projected on a dome-shaped ceiling), observatory (some can do daytime telescope observing) or science museum.

**Please visit the U.S. International Year of Astronomy website: www.astronomy2009.us
and the International Year of Astronomy website: www.astronomy2009.org**