Explore Astrobiology!

Websites
http://commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/dlc-me/zoo/
Visit the Microbe Zoo! Learn about microbes that live in soil, animals, food, space, and water and their important functions. Find out how microbes help us in our everyday lives and how they might be used on space missions and in space colonies.

http://www.exploratorium.edu/origins/index.html
The Exploratorium’s portal to websites that contain information on the people, explorations and theories involved in the search for life.

http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/timeline/
The Lunar and Planetary institute offers this site that provides the changes that occurred on Earth over the last 4 and a half billion years in timeline form. The timeline and all images are downloadable! Appropriate for all ages.

http://nai.arc.nasa.gov/
NASA’s Astrobiology Institute Website offers feature stories, most recently answered questions and Alien Safari to help kids discover some of the most extreme organisms on our planet, and find out what they are telling astrobiologists about the search for life beyond Earth. Appropriate for ages 7 and up.

http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/projects/astrobiology/astroventure/avhome.html
NASA's Astro-Venture helps students ages 6 and up to explore NASA careers and astrobiology research by offering activities that allow them to "search for and build a planet with the necessary characteristics for human habitation."

http://www.cellsalive.com/cam2.htm
Watch bacteria grow in real time! This site offers images of bacteria growing over a period of time. Learn about the make-up of cells and play games offered by the site. Appropriate for ages 6 and up.

This NASA site offers activities that allow 5-12 year olds the opportunity to think like an astrobiologist. The activities encourage the children to consider and test the possibility of life elsewhere in the solar system.
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Books


Alien Lifesearch. Jefferis David, Crabtree, 1999, ISBN: 0-7787-0049-6. The author presents the idea of life on other worlds showing evidence such as a meteorite that some scientists believe contains fossils of past life on Mars. Also included are sections on the origins of life, a look throughout the universe and designing an alien. Appropriate for ages 8-11.


