

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.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Astrobiology_Educator_Guide.html

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

Is There Life on Other Planets? Asimov Isaac, Gareth Stevens Publishing, 1989, ISBN: 1-55532-359-6. This book for ages 6-10 covers the basic concepts from life on Earth, life in our Solar System, and life in extreme environments.

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.

Life in Outer Space. McDonald Kim, Raintree, 2001, ISBN: 0-7398-2223-3. The topics covered in this book include: what is astrobiology, life's raw materials, extreme biology and searching for ET. This is a great book for kids ages 7-12.

Is There Life in Outer Space? Branley Franklyn, HarperTrophy, 1999, ISBN-10: 0064451925, ISBN-13: 978-0064451925. The author encourages children ages 4-8 to consider that life may exist on other planets with the right conditions. New illustrations make this an easy read.

Life in Outer Space: The Search for Extraterrestrials. McDonald Kim, Steck-Vaughn, 2000, ISBN-10: 0739822136, ISBN-13: 978-0739822135. Appropriate for ages 4-8. The readers follow the latest explorations seeking the possibility of life on other planets.

Extremophiles: Life in Extreme Environments. Bredahl Harry, Chelsea House Publications, 2002, ISBN: 0791066177. The author explores Extremophiles and their environments. Appropriate for ages 12-15.

Looking for Life in the Universe. Jackson Ellen, Houghton Mifflin, 2002, ISBN: 0618548866. Grades 5-8 will enjoy this book about Dr. Jill Tarter, Director of the Phoenix Project of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI), and her search for life outside Earth.

Life on the Edge. Winner Cherie, Lerner Publications Company, 2006, ISBN: 0822524996. Life on the Edge is a colorful, reader-friendly text for grades 4-6 replete with images, information, and fun facts about the amazing world of microbes that go where no man - or woman - dare.