

# NASA Explorer Schools News

*A monthly newsletter  
from the teachers of  
tomorrow's explorers*

## Featured Mission



### The Future of Space Exploration and You

Thirty-five years after NASA's first trip to the Moon, the Space Agency is gearing up to return. NASA's Vision for Space Exploration calls for robotic missions to the Moon to start by 2008 with human missions by 2015. Eventually NASA plans to establish a base on the Moon and send humans to Mars and beyond. This voyage of discovery will require not only astronauts but tens of thousands of scientists, engineers, and technicians, not to mention the many thousands of other support personnel any large organization would need. All of them will be explorers important to the Earth-Moon-Mars mission. The next generation of explorers, who will take NASA into the future, are the students in schools today; students just like you!

[www.nasa.gov/missions/solarsystem/explore\\_main.html](http://www.nasa.gov/missions/solarsystem/explore_main.html)

## Activity Corner

### Explorers Need Maps!

Whether you are exploring the ocean like Columbus, exploring the countryside like Lewis and Clark or exploring the heavens like Galileo, you'll need a map! Here's a fun activity to do with family and friends at home.

### Treasure Hunt

The game is to hide some treasure for your family and friends to find. Hide it well, in someplace hard to find. Then draw a map of the area (your house, your yard, the neighborhood), and make up clues to help them find the treasure. The key is to create a good map!

**Students:** See some maps of your home town using the National Geographic Map Machine:

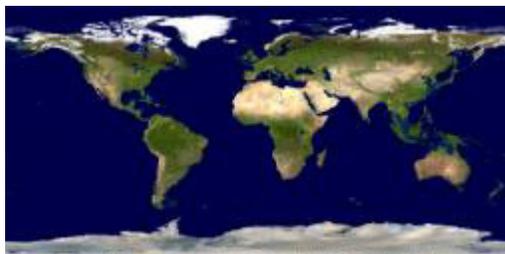
[plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/](http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/)

**Teachers:** Here is a lesson plan on maps:

[pbskids.org/anne/tclesson08.html](http://pbskids.org/anne/tclesson08.html)

More map resources from NASA:

[www.nasaexplores.com/extras/maps/map\\_resources\\_list.html](http://www.nasaexplores.com/extras/maps/map_resources_list.html)



## Bytes and Bits

### Still more Spirit and Opportunity on Mars

The Mars rovers' primary missions were planned to last only 90 days each. They are still hard at work more than 120 days beyond that target. See all the latest images and data they continue to send back to Earth:

[mars.jpl.nasa.gov](http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov)

### NESN Puzzler

We always want to hear your opinion, so tell us,

*Why do you think we should explore space?*

The first ten answers will receive a NASA prize! Email us your name, your teacher's name, name of your school and school address.

## NASA Explorers are people like you

**Name:** Louie Garcia

**Job Title:** Lead Payload Recovery Operations Engineer

**Education:** BS Electrical Engineering

When Louie was a sophomore in high school, across the Indian River from the Kennedy Space Center (KSC), he sold bumper stickers to tourists watching the very first shuttle launch. "I knew then and there that I wanted to be a part of the Space Program." Today Louie lives his dream while working at KSC. He leads the team that unloads the experiments for the Space Shuttle. Since many experiments are delicate and require special handling or are time-sensitive, Louie and his team have to be both fast and extremely careful in their work. "Sometimes I have to pinch myself to think that I am crawling around in the crew compartment of a Space Shuttle that was in orbit two hours ago," he says.



## NES Spotlight

### Black Mountain Elementary

**Students:** 500

**Teaching staff:** 35

Founded in 1991, Black Mountain is a K-8 school located in a very rural northwestern area of Arizona. The school hosts an annual Science Fair and a "NASA night" every three months. The school also encourages special science trips to out-of-town museums. Black Mountain School has many different math, technology, and science clubs and is the home of many winners of local and state math, writing, and science competitions. The school's Lego League team won a "Best Sportsmanship" award and competed at both regional and state levels. Black Mountain also has a greenhouse at the school. That's quite an achievement for a school in a desert.

[www.kusd.org/blkmtn/index.htm](http://www.kusd.org/blkmtn/index.htm)

