



SCIENCE FOR THE YOUNGEST



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Astrobiology: a new tool for engaging primary school students into science

Astrobiology is a new science that tries to unveil the existence of life as we know it, beyond our planet. To do so, astrobiologists must combine different traditional sciences such as physics or biology in order to define first of all the concept of “living organism”, subsequently define the conditions for life to exist and finally develop the technology to be able to study it. Our project was developed over four consecutive years.



1st year: KS1 students

Students were introduced to astronomy and had their first contact with a telescope. Following the treatise on astronomy “*Sidereus Nuncius*” by Galileo, they were able to study the characteristics of planet Earth and the Moon.



2nd year: KS2-year 3 students

Using the images taken by satellites, students carried out the identification of the characteristics of the Earth and the Moon. Subsequently, scientific modeling of the structures previously observed was produced.



3rd year: KS2-year 4 students

Colonization of the Moon. Students were asked to define and investigated the challenges that terrestrial organisms would have to confront to be able to survive outside our planet.



4th year: KS2-year 5 students

Aeronauts: students explored the characteristics of Mars (Ares) and assembled a compendium of basic guidelines so as to help the future manned missions to the red planet..



Conclusion: Astrobiology is the guiding line that has allowed us to carry out several research projects in which primary school students follow the official science curriculum through multidisciplinary work whilst discovering the latest achievements in space exploration.