



DECEMBER 2009



SPACEPLACE.NASA.GOV

This image from space shows the huge plume from Chaiten Volcano in Chile in 2008. The ASTER instrument on NASA's Terra satellite made this image using invisible infrared light. Play the infrared face-matching game at spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/aster_do1.shtml.

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Read a New Book Month. It could be <i>Lucy's Planet Hunt: Or, How to See Things in a Different Light.</i></p>		<p>1</p> <p>FULL MOON</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>National Cookie Day. If you were going on a long journey to Mars, would cookies be among the items you would take along?</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Galileo spacecraft became first to orbit an outer planet (Jupiter), in 1995. Learn more about Dr. Marc's favorite planet.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>LAST QUARTER</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>First recorded sighting of the Aurora Borealis from New England, 1719. What causes these beautiful Northern Lights?</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Radio signals first transmitted across the Atlantic, 1901. But how do these signals carry messages?</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Geminids meteor shower at maximum. Meteor showers occur when Earth passes through the path of icy, rocky debris in space left by a comet.</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>NEW MOON</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Wright Brothers Day. In 1903, the Wrights were first to achieve powered flight. See how far aviation has come.</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Apollo 17, the last of the Apollo Moon landing missions, returned to Earth, 1972. Did they find water ice on the Moon?</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Winter Solstice (first day of winter)</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>FIRST QUARTER</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day. Did Santa ever bring you a Slinky®? If so, you'll understand how NASA plans to make a mast to go solar sailing in space.</p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Time</i> magazine named Albert Einstein "Person of the Century," 1999. Play the Black Hole Rescue game, based on some of his ideas.</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>No Interruptions Day. A time to reflect and prepare for a new year. Read and listen to Dr. Marc's reflections on some favorite topics.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Edmond Halley in 1705 predicted the 1758 return of a comet named for him. What are comets made of? FULL MOON</p>		

Month of December: spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/spitzer/lucy
 Dec. 4: spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/mars_rocket.shtml
 Dec. 7: spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/phonedrmarc/2003_september.shtml
 Dec. 11: spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/educators/podcast
 Dec. 12: spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/educators/teachers_page2.shtml#phases
 Dec. 14: spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/stardust

Dec. 17: spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/educators/teachers_page2.shtml#formation
 Dec. 19: spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/ice
 Dec. 25: spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/st8/sailmast
 Dec. 26: spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/blackhole
 Dec. 28: spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/phonedrmarc
 Dec. 31: spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/deepimpact