Mae Jemison U.S. SCIENCE reading room

Newsletter

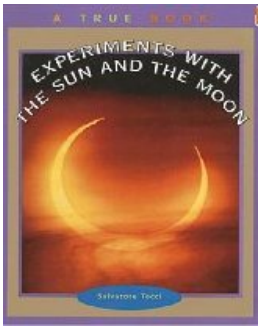
Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2009

Watch the Solar Eclipse at the Mae Jemison U.S. Science Reading Room

Facts 'n Fun at our Open Day on January 26

Viewing the annular solar eclipse between 7.07 and 9.46 a.m. (maximum eclipse at 8.20 local time) on January 26 is a great way to get into the spirit of the International Year of Astronomy — and the Mae Jemison U.S. Science Reading Room will be ready with 100 solar eclipse viewers for students and teachers at 7 a.m.



A book on eclipses in the Reading Room for younger readers.

We plan more fun and games in the afternoon, including an "explosive science demonstration" by ExperiLab.

Science and math teachers and school principals are invited to a video conference in the Reading Room's auditorium with Eric M. Wilcots, Professor & Chair, Department of Astronomy, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Useful Websites:

Good introduction for schoolchildren:
http://www.mreclipse.com/Special/SEprimer.html

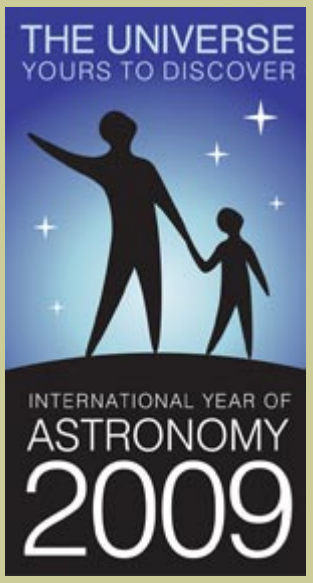
NASA eclipse Web site:
http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/OH/OH2009.html

Useful tips on safe viewing:
http://www.planetarium.co.za/Eclipse2009.html

This Web site has some nice animations:
http://www.eclipse.org.uk/eclipse/0132009/

What's Happening in February

- We celebrate the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth with a talk on evolution on Wednesday **February 11** at 2 p.m.
- We continue with our ExperiLab programs, for teachers and for Grade 12 students.
- The Reading Room will be open every Wednesday from 1.30 to 4 p.m.



International Year of Astronomy

In 1609, Galileo Galilei made his first major telescopic observations.

In recognition of this, the International Astronomical Union and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization have declared 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy (IYA).

IYA will be a global celebration of astronomy. 2009 is also the 40th anniversary of the first manned mission to the Moon.

Official IYA Web site:
http://www.astronomy2009.org/

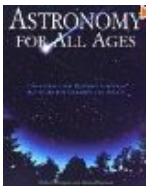
Astronomy books in the Mae Jemison Reading Room

a small selection

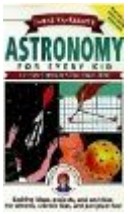
Koppes, Steven N. (2003) ***Killer Rocks from Outer Space: Asteroids, Comets, and Meteors***
Reading level: senior primary—junior secondary

May, Brian; Moore, Patrick; Lintott, Chris (2008) ***Bang!: The Complete History of the Universe***
Reading level: secondary/adult

Harrington, Philip; Pascuzzi, Edward (2000) **Astronomy for All Ages, 2nd: Discovering the Universe through Activities for Children and Adults**
Reading level: secondary/adult



VanCleave, Janice (1991) ***Janice VanCleave's Astronomy for Every Kid: 101 Easy Experiments that Really Work***
Reading level: senior primary—junior secondary



What is an Eclipse?

An eclipse is when the light from a star is temporarily blocked off by another space object. A lunar eclipse is when the Moon travels behind the Earth and into the Earth's shadow. A solar eclipse is when the Moon comes between the Sun and the Earth. Solar eclipses are possible because the Moon is 400 times smaller than the Sun and 400 times closer to the Earth. This means that the Sun and the Moon appear to be the same size in the sky. — *EbscoHost Science Reference Center*

Total Eclipse of the Sun, July 22, 2009

A number of China's major cities will be darkened by a total eclipse lasting nearly 7 minutes at maximum — the longest total eclipse until 2132.

Read more:
Espenak, Fred; Anderson, Jay "The Great Total Eclipse" *Sky & Telescope*, December 2008.

Wikipedia:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_eclipse

January February March April May June July August September October November December

YEAR of SCIENCE 2009

The scientific community in the United States is celebrating "How We Know What We Know" in a 12-month event: the Year of Science 2009. Here are the themes for each month (for more information, see: http://www.yearofscience2009.org):

- January - Process and Nature of Science; Communicating Science
- February - Evolution
- March - Physics and Technology
- April - Energy resources
- May - Sustainability and the Environment
- June - Ocean and Water
- July - Astronomy
- August - Weather and Climate
- September - Biodiversity and Conservation
- October - Geosciences and Planet Earth
- November - Chemistry
- December - Science & health