

Dawn Mission Outreach E-News, 6th Edition

November 2005

Countdown to launch: 228 days

Greetings Dawn enthusiasts! If you haven't been to the Dawn website recently, you'll find lots of new features. For **classroom educators** you'll find the first Dawn education content module, "History and Discovery of Asteroids." This field tested module is linked to national and state education standards and is available for classroom use. For **space history enthusiasts** we are featuring "Journey Through Time," an animated history of the discovery and exploration of asteroids.

Have you ever found a strange-looking rock, that you think might be from outer space? We have revised and enhanced the Find a Meteorite (FAM) interactive on the site. There's more information about how meteorites play a role in the Dawn mission and new images. Visit the online FAM experiment and train yourself to recognize some of the visible characteristics of meteorites.

Oh, and don't forget to send your name to the asteroid belt. Details below.

The Dawn E/PO Team

<http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/>

JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

Flashback to a time when people believed the Earth was the center of the universe. Join the Celestial Police in their search for the "missing planet" between the orbits of Jupiter and Mars. Discover technological breakthroughs that revolutionized the study of asteroids. You can learn more about the many historical milestones leading up to Dawn's journey through the asteroid belt by exploring the new interactive timeline at: <http://www.dawn-mission.org/DawnCommunity/index.asp>

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS! NEW UNIT ON THE HISTORY AND DISCOVERY OF ASTEROIDS

Transform your astronomy classroom into a time machine with this standards-aligned middle school module that investigates the scientific discoveries, technological advances, and historical events leading to the Dawn mission. Designed around a five-stage learning cycle, the module combines brief readings and engaging hands-on activities to help students piece together significant historical breakthroughs in astronomy. By doing so, they will begin to see the Dawn mission as a logical next step in the study of asteroids.

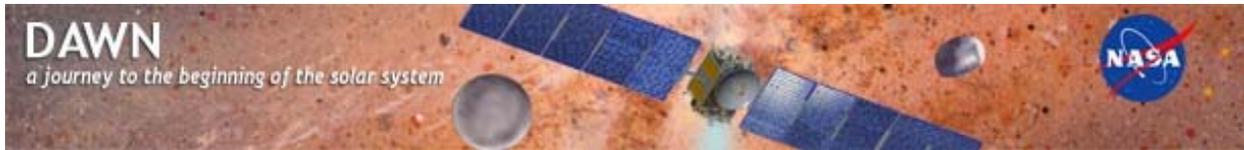
Student materials and the accompanying instructor guides for the module are available at:

http://www.dawn-mission.org/DawnClassrooms/1_hist_dawn/index.asp

TAKE THE "FIND A METEORITE" CHALLENGE

Can you distinguish between meteorites and "meteor-wrongs?" Conduct an online experiment in which you investigate several samples, determine if they possess meteorite properties, and ultimately identify the real interplanetary chunks that fell to Earth. This fun and educational Web activity is available at:

<http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/Meteorite2/experiment.asp>



ATTENTION: CURRICULUM COORDINATORS, FORMAL, AND INFORMAL SCIENCE EDUCATORS

Are you interested in participating in a Dawn field-test study? Dawn E/PO is committed to offering materials that are of high quality and utility and reflect the needs of formal and informal science educators. In Spring 2006, Dawn E/PO will conduct a field-test study of the Find a Meteorite activity developed by the University of New Mexico and Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL). McREL is also seeking interested physics teachers to field test the ion propulsion module. For more details and to sign up, visit:

<http://www.dawn-mission.org/getInvolved/index.asp>

UPCOMING EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENT

Dawn E/PO staff will be presenting and exhibiting the latest mission-related educational materials at the Colorado Science Convention on November 17-18 in Denver. For more information, go to:

<http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/education/index.asp>

ASK A SCIENTIST

'Have a question and want to communicate directly with a member of the Dawn mission team? Click on the "Ask a Scientist" link located at the bottom of the Dawn Web site at: <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov>

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Continually seeking ways to improve the mission Web site, Dawn Education and Public Outreach is eager to receive your feedback. Please share your thoughts by completing a brief survey at:

<http://survey.mcrcel.org/external/dawn/website505.htm>

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Please forward this e-mail to share with others interested in NASA missions. New subscribers may join the Dawn mission e-news mailing list on our Web site at:

http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/DawnMedia/e_news.asp

Dawn Mission Outreach E-News features information about the mission, its outreach Web site, and products, services, and materials available from the Dawn Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) team. Dawn is the ninth Discovery mission in NASA's Science Mission Directorate and is a collaborative partnership made up of the University of California, Los Angeles; Jet Propulsion Laboratory; Orbital Sciences Corporation; Los Alamos National Laboratory; German Aerospace Center; Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research; Italian Space Agency; and Italian National Institute of Astrophysics. Dawn outreach materials are developed under contract by Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL), Aurora, CO