



October 2005

A close encounter of the learning kind at the Science Museum's new blockbuster exhibition *The Science of Aliens*

Education packs are now available online for *The Science Of Aliens* - the biggest and most in-depth exhibition examining the possibility of life on other worlds – at the Science Museum from Saturday 15th October until the end of February 2006.

The Science of Aliens is the first in a new set of temporary exhibitions asking some of science's biggest questions and bringing them to life for school groups and families in a series of interactive and inspiring exhibitions. Teacher worksheets, downloadable at { HYPERLINK "<http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/aliens>" }, are designed for use with Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 of the National Curriculum.

The pioneering exhibition looks to science to explain the very real possibilities for alien life. Throughout history aliens have always been a topic of fascination for children and adults alike, and the exhibition hopes to encourage everyone to explore their own perceptions as well as showcasing the work of leading scientists.

Activities such as *You are What you Eat* supports KS2 *Living in their Environment* topics, challenging children to create a food chain for an Alien world, encouraging them to look at the interdependencies of an ecosystem.

For KS 3, *The Earth and Beyond* activities encourage children to look at the position and significance of their own planet Earth in space and examine and explore the similarities and differences between planets in our own solar system.

The exhibition is an ideal vehicle for exploring KS4 themes on *Variation, inheritance and evolution* with its wealth of material on the multiplicity of life on earth and different stages of evolution. Visitors to the exhibition can see examples of creatures that have adapted to extreme environments in our deepest oceans or volcanoes.

The exhibition is divided into four distinct zones:

1. ***Alien Fiction*** explores the fascination with alien life throughout recent history, looking at some of their favourite aliens in films, television and literature.
2. ***Alien Science*** investigates some of the real but extremely weird, creatures that thrive here on Earth, before embarking on a journey around our solar system and into deep space in search of the home of alien life. Students will be able to investigate frightening specimens from Earth's deepest oceans, explore the amazing evolution of life on Earth and find out how these help scientists understand the possibilities for alien life. Massive globes and an interactive galaxy map explore the latest planetary science.
3. ***Alien Worlds*** features two planets created by leading scientists from around the world for a new Channel 4 TV documentary. The experts used the science in zone 2 to imagine the kind of life that could evolve on two fictional, but scientifically credible

worlds - Aurelia and Blue Moon. Giant interactive landscapes enable visitors to interact with the creatures, learn more about them and influence their behaviour, making them hide, hunt and move around their planets, before triggering world-altering global events. This will be the first time these cutting edge interactives will be seen in the UK.

4. ***Alien Communications*** looks at the search for alien intelligence, showing how scientists are listening for signals from students will be able to listen to space and to compose a message to an alien - scientific or spiritual, welcome or warning.

To coincide with the launch of *The Science Of Aliens* there will be:

- A PDF educational pack that can be used in the classroom to elaborate on the exhibition's content. Visit { HYPERLINK "<http://www.sciencemuseum.aliens>" } to download
- A special education discount ticket rate of £4.00 per child
- A series of events at the Science Museum for all ages, including family science shows, drama performances and special alien science night sleepovers where children will actually sleep in the Museum
- A children's book, *Aliens: Are We Alone?* discussing the main themes of the exhibition in an illustrated format. Published by Macmillan Children's Books, for ages 7 and up
- A two-part Channel 4 TV programme, *Alien Worlds* featuring the scientifically created aliens from Aurelia and Blue Moon which are featured in the exhibition
- The DVD release of the Channel 4 programme, in conjunction with the exhibition.

Jon Tucker, Head of the Science Museum said, "This exhibition is a unique look at a question which has fascinated and terrified people since the beginning of time: 'Are we alone in the universe?' Using the latest research and cutting-edge technology as a foundation, we will be asking people to think about what life elsewhere in the universe could be like. I'm sure that this exhibition will appeal both to adults and children, challenging their preconceptions and inspiring them to delve further into the science of life beyond Earth."

"*The Science of Aliens* will be out of this world," said Sara Milne, CEO of Science & Media LLP, the new company behind the development of the exhibition. "A world-class creative team of designers, writers and producers have come together to create this exhibition which will present the most up to date research from scientists from around the world. Visitors to the exhibition will enjoy a uniquely entertaining and educational experience in a stunning and contemporary environment. This exhibition will be truly ground breaking and enables the Science Museum to do what it does best – bring science to life."

The exhibition is the first in a series that will tackle major scientific subjects planned by new touring exhibitions company, Science & Media LLP. *The Science of Crime* and *The Science of Speed* will follow. The exhibitions will debut at the Science Museum and then tour.

The Science of Aliens runs 15 October 2005 – 26 February 2006. Tickets can be pre-booked now at { HYPERLINK "<http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/aliens>" } or by calling 0870 906 3890.

Information about the exhibition is also available by texting GO ALIENS to 85080.

Prices: Adult £8.95 / Concession £6.25 / Education £4.00 per child
Family 2+2 £26.00 / Family 1+2 £18.50. Group concessions available.

For accreditation to the media preview day on Thursday 13 October email { HYPERLINK "mailto:scienceofaliens@freud.com" }

Further information and images from:

Katie Drew, freud communications, 020 7291 6482, Katie.drew@freud.com

Editor's notes:

The Science of Aliens is the very first exhibition born of a new partnership between Fleming Media and the world-renowned Science Museum, London to form Science & Media LLP. Under the name '*The Science Of...*' a series of exhibitions will be designed to showcase the latest learning from the world of science through immersive and interactive experiences which will tour the world.

The Exhibition is produced in association with Channel 4's ***Alien Worlds***, a Big Wave production. It will be broadcast on Channel 4 in two parts

Alien Worlds (cert. PG) will be released on DVD (£19.99) by **4DVD** on **3rd October 2005**. Special features include an in-depth and insightful documentary 'The Making Of Alien Worlds', Trailer plus DVD Rom content featuring fully interactive planet and alien profiles with cgi animation.

Filename: Science of Aliens - education2.doc
Directory: C:\Documents and
Settings\marcus.whistler\Desktop\Katie Drew
Template: C:\Documents and
Settings\marcus.whistler\Application
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot
Title: 26th July 2005
Subject:
Author: james.rudoni
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 10/11/2005 6:43:00 PM
Change Number: 4
Last Saved On: 10/17/2005 10:06:00 AM
Last Saved By: katie.drew
Total Editing Time: 2 Minutes
Last Printed On: 10/17/2005 10:21:00 AM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 3
Number of Words: 1,184 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 6,208 (approx.)