

GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY SCHOOL VISIT CURRICULUM



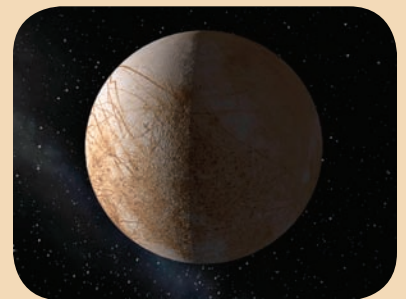
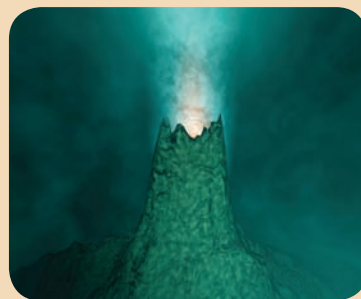
The two-and-a-half-hour school program experience is one of the most rigorous and carefully choreographed field trip programs in California.

Each of the three elements of the program is designed to complement and reinforce the others, support the fifth-grade standards, and provide a wide array of learning approaches to suit a variety of learners.



1 **Water Is Life in the Samuel Oschin Planetarium.** The 30-minute program in the Observatory's grand 75-foot planetarium theater introduces students to the beauty and wonder of the night sky using both the most sophisticated star projector in the world and a stunning, all-dome digital laser projection system. After exploring watery environments on Earth, our water cycle, and water's importance to life on Earth, *Water Is Life* investigates whether there might be liquid water elsewhere in the Solar System. If so, might there be life beyond Earth?

Water Is Life is presented by one of our experienced Observatory Lecturers, who are specially trained for this unique presentation (which is completely different in tone and content from the Observatory's main public planetarium show).



"The information presented mirrored our California state standards and supported what we have done in the classroom."

Denise Lindaht,
Valentine Elementary School

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2 Demonstration and interactive session in the Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon theater. The 30-minute presentation in the Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon theater addresses additional concepts related to the program themes of the solar system and the search for water. It includes interactive discussion and illustrates fundamental concepts related to the nature of water and its phases and why water is so important in biological systems. After a survey of results from NASA missions to the planets, the program concludes with the very popular “Make-a-Comet” demonstration, in which students see a simulated comet up close. The program is led by specially trained and knowledgeable Museum Guides.

3 Interactive activities and discussions in the exhibit galleries. The Observatory’s talented team of Museum Guides leads groups of students through 70 minutes of exploration and discussion around several exhibits. Students explore the nature of the Sun, energy, and the planets in our solar system in-depth. The Observatory’s exhibits are large, colorful, unique, and rich with content. The experience is memorable, and very different from what is experienced sitting in front of a computer or in a classroom.

Among the most popular exhibits are the telescopes on the roof of the Observatory, where visiting students get a chance to observe a real star – the Sun – through a telescope, just as Colonel Griffith intended.

“Thank you for adding real educational value to the new Griffith Observatory”

Steve Latshaw,
West Hills Elementary School



“The students were excited and well engaged with all the activities that this program had to offer... The learning sessions were well planned and thought out and moved from lesson to lesson seamlessly.”
Dennis Wong,
Franklin Avenue Elementary

