

NATIONAL CENTER FOR INTERACTIVE LEARNING

EXCITE. EXPLORE. DISCOVER.

Education & Outreach Newsletter



Children playing with the *Discover Earth* Quiz Game at the Diboll opening.

Discover Earth exhibit opens in Diboll Texas

The *Discover Earth* traveling library exhibition (part of the STAR_Net Project) has kicked off its nationwide tour at the TLL Temple Memorial Library in Diboll, Texas. *Discover Earth* is scheduled to travel to 8 more libraries across the country.

Brenda Russell of the TLL Temple Memorial Library says her patrons are thrilled to get to experience the exhibit, saying, "Thank you for letting us be one of the libraries to host this marvelous exhibit. We can never tell you what it will mean to our area."



The Magic Planet interactive at the Diboll opening.

Discover Earth: A Century of Change, a traveling exhibition for libraries, is part of the STAR Library Education Network (STAR_Net) led by the National Center for Interactive Learning at the Space Science Institute. Exhibit partners include the American Library Association, the Lunar and Planetary Institute, and the National Girls Collaborative Project. *Discover Earth* is supported through a grant from the National Science Foundation.



A guest at the *You Decide* kiosk in *Discover Earth*

Join our Community of Practice to help bring STEM learning to libraries

Every day, millions of Americans visit public libraries which provide their services for free. Among these visitors are children who don't live near a science center or can't afford the price of admission. For several years, NCIL has worked on developing exhibits for libraries that will reach library patrons, particularly underserved audiences.

NCIL's *STAR_Net* (Science-Technology, Activities and Resources) project consists of two exhibits (*Discover Earth* and *Discover Tech*) that will tour libraries around the country. To support librarians and other professionals who wish to provide hands-on science learning in libraries, the *STAR_Net* project has launched an online Community of Practice.



A weather making activity that is featured on the CoP site.

A Community of Practice (CoP) is defined as "groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly." If you are interested in joining this innovative community, you can expect this community to:

- Provide a forum where professionals-librarians, scientists, educators, and others--can share resources and learn from one another about how best to engage the public in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) learning experiences in libraries.
- Support the librarians and others who are providing





A comet making activity that can be found on the CoP site.

- or will provide STEM learning in libraries.
- Support the STEM professionals and educators who want to reach public audiences through STEM learning experiences in libraries.
- Foster partnerships and collaborations among CoP members to develop new STEM learning experiences for libraries.

If you are interested in joining the *STAR_Net* Community of Practice, or have any questions, please contact Anne Holland (aholland@spacescience.org)



Expanding the frontiers of knowledge and understanding

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