



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative  
2022 Volume IV: Alien Earths

---

## **There's No "Space" Like Home**

Guide for Curriculum Unit 22.04.04, published September 2022  
by Valerie Schwarz

The curriculum unit titled, *There's No "Space" Like Home* examines our solar system and beyond. The recent images from the James Webb Space Telescope shed light on how little we really know about our universe and the space frontier. Planets orbit most stars in the sky and with the thousands of galaxies revealed in the photo, it seems unlikely that we are alone. What makes a planet habitable? Are other planets, moons, or dwarf planets in the solar system habitable? And for that matter, what is life?

The unit will use modeling and measurement to create a scale model of the eight planets. Students will compare and contrast the planets, moons, and dwarf planets. Students will also use Design Thinking to create and launch a rocket. The unit can be adapted for grades 3-6 and focuses on science content. This unit covers NGSS standard MS-ESS1-2 and Virginia Standards of Science: 4.5, 4.6, and 4.1.

(Developed for Science, Math, and Language Arts, grade 4; recommended for Science and Math, grades 4-6)

---

<https://teachers.yale.edu>

©2023 by the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute, Yale University, All Rights Reserved. Yale National Initiative®, Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute®, On Common Ground®, and League of Teachers Institutes® are registered trademarks of Yale University.

For terms of use visit [https://teachers.yale.edu/terms\\_of\\_use](https://teachers.yale.edu/terms_of_use)