

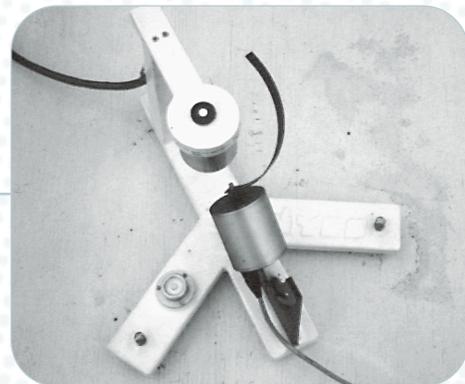
Research Education

spring
2000

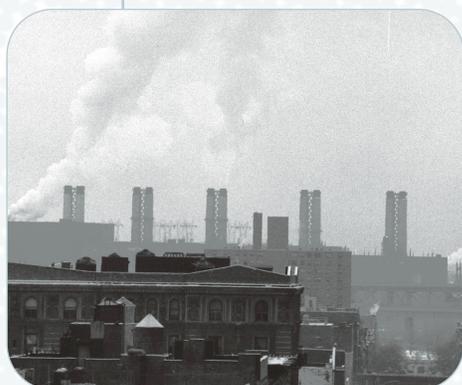
Students, Educators, and Scientists Engaged in NASA's Earth Science Enterprise

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How Do
Aerosols Affect
Earth's Climate
and Our
Health?



*A publication of the Institute on Climate and Planets,
NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies,
located on the campus of Columbia University, New York, NY*



To Our Readers

The sixth issue of the ICP Newsletter has a different look, more in-depth science and education content and even a new name: *Research Education*. The idea of research education is to give students an appreciation of inquiry through research, whether they are creating new knowledge or discovering what is already known. Our aim is to provide a resource for involving students in research, teaching earth system science, learning about climate change, and retaining minority students in the science pipeline.

Research Education is a product of a Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) education program, the Institute on Climate and Planets (ICP). Conducted in cooperation with Columbia University, City University of New York, and New York City schools, it draws students and educators into research team projects to work alongside GISS scientists. By grappling with real-world problems and revising their tactics when difficulties arise, students can learn science through inquiry.

Many ICP research teams employ global climate model simulations. This analysis is well suited for high school and college students, since climate variability can often be characterized using relatively simple mathematical techniques such as linear trends and correlation coefficients. Students are motivated by the study of climate variability and change and teachers find these topics useful in teaching basic statistical techniques and hypothesis testing. Furthermore, climate studies help students appreciate the importance of scientific objectivity, especially when working on problems of consequence to society.

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