

NOAA Ocean Explorer Web Site

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Abstract: NOAA Ocean Explorer is NOAA's official Web site for ocean exploration. It is an educational Internet offering for all who wish to learn about, discover, and virtually explore the ocean realm. Debuting in April 2001, it provides public access to current information on many NOAA scientific and educational explorations and activities in the marine environment.

It is content and media rich, brimming with over 4,000 pages of essays, videos and images from the 2001, 2002, and 2003 field seasons. The site provides a platform to follow explorations in near real-time, learn about ocean exploration technologies, observe remote marine flora and fauna in the colorful multimedia gallery, read about NOAA's 200-year history of ocean exploration, download educational materials, and discover additional NOAA resources in a virtual library. A companion CD-ROM product was designed for situations when users do not have an Internet connection or broadband connection speed. It contains the entire Web site as of January 2003.

The Web site and companion CD provide direct access to 85 lesson plans developed by scientists and educators during the 2001 and 2002 field seasons. These lessons are for use with students in Grades 5-12. In addition to being tied to the National Science Education Standards, the hands-on, inquiry-based activities include focus questions, background information for teachers, links to interesting Internet sites, and extensions. Daily logs documenting expedition discoveries complement the lesson plans and provide access to compelling images and video. Teachers are encouraged to use these logs, found in most exploration offerings. Many have been awarded SciLinks awards from the National Science Teachers Association. Come take a closer look at one of NOAA's newest educational tools.