

NASA Resources for Educators about DNA

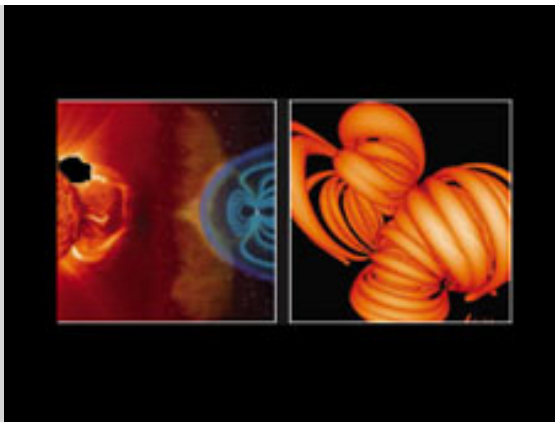
Why do NASA scientists and astronauts care about DNA?

Here's why: Space travel exposes astronauts to high levels of DNA damaging radiation. The cells in the body can keep up with this increased damage, repairing the DNA, but only up to a point. When the cells' DNA repair mechanisms fail, the cells either become cancerous or they commit cell suicide, neither of which is good for human health. Thus NASA is very interested in learning about DNA, and about DNA damage & repair processes to maintain human health. And we all are very interested in keeping our DNA healthy here on earth too!

Here is the URL:

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Space_Faring_Radiation.html

Space Faring: The Radiation Challenge Unit



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The information in this series was accurate as of the original publication date.