

Searching for Life

Are we alone? NASA is searching for life beyond Earth.

Photo of the Milky Way

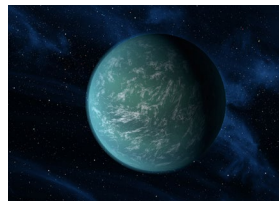
NASA's Kepler mission surveys the Milky Way galaxy to discover habitable planets.

FIND OUT how you can help the Kepler mission hunt for planets:
planethunters.org

LEARN MORE about NASA and astrobiology:
astrobiology.nasa.gov

We don't yet have scientific evidence for life in other parts of the universe, but there are some exciting possibilities in the Milky Way galaxy—and even our own solar system! Astronomers have found many potentially habitable planets in the Milky Way using NASA's Kepler telescope. These "Goldilocks" planets are just the right distance from the stars they orbit—not too close and not too far—to allow liquid water to exist on their surfaces, a critical ingredient for life as we know it. Citizen scientists also participate in Kepler's research through the Planet Hunters project!

Saturn's moon Enceladus may have reservoirs of water lying beneath its icy surface. In 2005, NASA's Cassini spacecraft captured this image showing geysers of frozen water erupting.



Kepler-22b is the first planet that the Kepler mission has confirmed to orbit in a star's habitable zone.