



Today I am Galileo ... Tomorrow I am Darwin

A journey that will take us from the Origins of the Universe and our Planet to the unique conditions that allowed the human specie to survive on this amazingly beautiful blue dot

At least once in our lives, all of us should look up to a starry night and wonder where did all this come from? All human beings should know that our planet is just a lucky charming place, a precious rock that happened to have developed enough good qualities to host our fragile lives. In all our differences and equalities we should acknowledge our smallness and bow to the evidence that we are all just tiny creatures, all alike, living in this unique valuable moment, were all is possible. Nevertheless some lessons are to be taught, if this truth is to be maintained to generations to come. Our existence on this planet should not be taken lavishly, neither our survival for granted. The Earth should not be assumed to be ours, to be used as we please. The Earth might unexpectedly become inhospitable for life. We must teach our children that in order to preserve our specie, our attitude towards the planet and each other must radically change.

Today I am Galileo Tomorrow I am Darwin intends to be a project where students will have an opportunity to question the basis of our scientific knowledge. To understand the cultural differences that unites or builds frontiers among us. Perhaps this will be a good opportunity to make them aware of how small our planet is, how alike all human specie is and who knows this might be the seed to start the foundations of new and fruitful collaboration between nations.

This project strength will be the **communication between schools in different nations**. Several different activities are outlined that promote multidisciplinary collaboration. Our aim is to create a really global schools network, where political frontiers or skin colour become truly meaningless. Students will perform a variety of tasks, from enquires to real scientific activities. We intend to have at least 50 schools per country, each networking with at least 3 different nations distributed randomly among the participating countries.

This project was built pursuing the creation of important pillars:

- **Knowledge and creativity**
- **Multicultural Dialogue**
- **Global Neighbourhood**
- **The preservation of our specie in the Planet**

While participating in these activities students will:

- Increase their **scientific culture**
- Develop many different **key skills**
- Exercise **Critical Thinking** and have a sense of the importance of innovative attitudes
- Improve **problem solving** capacities
- Enhance their **citizenship awareness**
- Exercise their **communication skills**
- Create **leadership capacities**

It also goes in accordance with IYA2009 main goals :

- Help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe
- Engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery

- Realize the impact of astronomy and basic sciences on our daily lives
- Understand better how scientific knowledge can contribute to a more equitable and peaceful society.

Activities were envisaged to tackle issues such:

- Stories behind science / scientists
- How science is done
- Our place in the cosmos
- Origin and evolution
- Science in history, arts and language

Several challenges are foreseen within the scope of this project. Participating schools can engage in all the proposed activities or enrol only partially. The tasks are designed to be as multidisciplinary as possible. Teachers of all disciplines are invited to participate. Students can engage in different activities and assume the role of scientists, journalists, artists etc ...

Examples of activities we are willing to promote:

- Reproduce Galileo's Observations
- Star Parties and Talks with Scientists
- Vídeo Productions
- Skypecats
- Bloga
- Re-create Darwin expedition interactively

We intend to have a first set of activities ready to go in the beginning of the European School year (September October). There will also be available a website with all the needed resources. We will create a forum and a help-desk always available to support the participants of this project.

We hope you accept this challenge

More information at: <http://www.nuclio.pt/projectos/000072.html>

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