

# Bringing the Science to the Classroom: JINA's Classroom Materials Mini-Grant Program



**ELEMENTARY PLANETARIUM**  
63871-00 Trippensee/Without Illumination \$149.00  
63872-02 Trippensee/With Illumination \$189.00

A quality planetarium designed especially for elementary students. The Sun, Earth, and Moon models are manually operated. The Earth rotates around the Sun, and the Sun rotates around the Earth. The illuminated model operates on 120V, AC. Includes: instructions and a lesson book (each model).

*"I am excited about bringing this opportunity to 'do science' to our 7th grade students!"*

*Kesling Middle School,  
Laporte, Indiana*

**By providing stellar classroom materials, we seek to enhance the science curriculum of K-12 classrooms at every level.**



Trade books used in elementary classrooms

The Joint Institute for Nuclear Astrophysics (JINA) is providing classroom materials to enhance the science curriculum of K-12 science classes through its Classroom Materials Mini-Grants program. Teachers apply for the mini-grant and identify the materials they want to enhance their class, how they relate to their curriculum and to the field of nuclear astrophysics, and we purchase the materials. So far, teachers from 2nd to 12th grade have participated in IN, MI, & IL. Teachers receive up to \$200 per teacher in materials and for the 2005 World Year of Physics (WYP), we expanded the subject matter to include any WYP activity or project, up to \$100 per teacher. Since 2003, this program has reached over 3100 K-12 students!

Participating teachers have embraced the project with tremendous enthusiasm. One teacher had this to say:

*"The mini-grant materials will have come at an ideal time. We have just integrated the Michigan Space Science objectives into our curriculum. While our new Holt textbook covers some information well, we need better visuals and some hands on minds on activities for the kids to really embrace these integrated topics. Our district has cut funding and we do not have monies to maintain the current curriculum let alone the newly adopted material. I fear that we will not be giving the time to the interesting concepts that space science offers without materials to support our teaching."*

*Eaton Rapids High School in Michigan  
Chemistry, Natural and Environmental Science*

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Examples of the materials purchased by grade:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> trade books, games
- 3<sup>rd</sup> videos, books, posters
- 5<sup>th</sup> solar system simulator
- 7<sup>th</sup> vacuum, spectroscope, prism
- 8<sup>th</sup> KINEX rollercoaster set (WYP activity)
- HS radiation sources and detectors, LCD projector, classroom sets of hand-held spectrometers, particle physics software

Teachers have applied jointly for the more expensive items. The materials stay in the classrooms from year to year, reaching thousands of K-12 students over time!