



NASA
ASTROBIOLOGY
INSTITUTE

Family Science Nights: Exploring Life on Other Planets



How do we study life? Building paper microscopes.



Above: What is life? Exploring proteins as the building blocks of life.



Left: Meet the Planets!
Comparing the size of the Sun and planets by building a scale model.

The ENIGMA (Evolution of Nanomachines in Geospheres and Microbial Ancestors) project led by Rutgers scientists, launched its first interactive K-8 *Family Science Nights* entitled “Exploring Life on Other Planets”, at the Greater Brunswick Charter School and McKinley School in downtown New Brunswick, NJ. Rutgers scientists involved in the *Family Science Nights* included researchers from Rutgers’ Astronomy and Physics department, Proteomics, and the Rutgers Geology museum. This project is part of a broader impact approach by Rutgers scientists to engage the community in science learning. The events were coordinated and co-sponsored by the Department of Youth Development, Rutgers Cooperative Extension and funded with support from NASA and a grant from AT&T.

- The *Family Science Night* events centered on a relatable curriculum for the whole family through five different astrobiology-themed stations.
- Students received a passport that guided their visits to each station and explained how each activity related to the main theme of Astrobiology.
- Scientists from the ENIGMA project shared their experiences with this exciting and cutting-edge research in the hopes of inspiring young scientists in research.



Learning how rocks and minerals contain clues about signs of life on Earth and other planets.