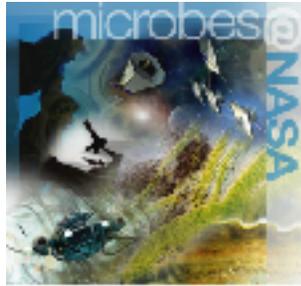


The Microbes@NASA Web Site

With a grant from NASA's Science Mission Directorate, we have developed a web-based educational module which uses microbial mats to teach general principles of microbial ecology. Microbial mats are complete ecosystems in miniature; the same processes that operate in mats are responsible for the operation of our biosphere. They are excellent "model systems" for teaching concepts such as nutrient recycling, respiration, and photosynthesis.



<http://microbes.arc.nasa.gov>

About Mats



What are mats? What are stromatolites? Why do they form layers? Discover how microbes work together to form a microbial mat.

Image Gallery



What do microbes look like under the microscope? Search a photographic collection of microbes and field sites where microbial mats can be found. Check often for photographs from new field trips!

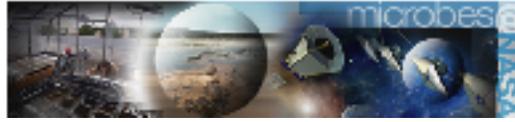
<http://microbes.arc.nasa.gov>

Learn More



Want to learn more about microbes? Follow our links. Conduct experiments in the Web Lab, a live microbial mat in a NASA laboratory.

Microbes & NASA



How could gases made by microbes in mats help us find life on other planets? Learn why mats may be good subjects for spaceflight experiments.

For Educators



Access downloadable inquiry-based lesson plans tied to National Standards. Participate in live experiments through Web Lab. Conduct a microbial mat web quest. Review other classroom resources on microbes.

Multimedia



What would it be like to actually be inside a microbial mat? Take a ride on the *Stromatolite Explorer*. Explore live mats being used to conduct research in Greenhouse One at NASA's Ames Research Center.

For more information:
Brad.M.Bebout@nasa.gov

Earth's Earliest Ecosystems in the Classroom



What Do Microbial Mats Teach Us
About Life on Earth
(and On Other Worlds)?

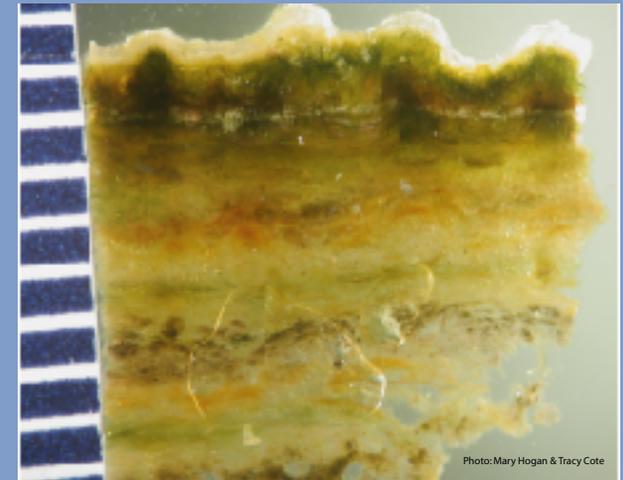


Photo: Mary Hogan & Tracy Cote

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