

### **Science at school with Xplora**

Xplora ([www.xplora.org](http://www.xplora.org)) is the European gateway to science education, run by European Schoolnet. It is aimed at teachers, pupils, scientists, science communicators and science educators. The website offers news, information, tools, projects, resources and more.

The Xplora gateway is created as part of PENCIL, a Science and Society project funded by the European Commission's DG Research.

### **What can you do on this portal?**

- Read science education news, pedagogical tips, ideas for teachers
- Search the database of websites and digital learning resources for science education
- Get insight into innovative practical science approaches and projects
- Obtain guidance on freely available Open Source tools for science education
- Find out about the Pencil and Nucleus projects that support the Xplora portal

### **Innovative science education services on Xplora**

Xplora is cooperating with many innovative partners in Europe and it is able to offer exciting new resources such as web experiments, database projects and collaborative projects. In all cases, Xplora offers its technical infrastructure, so an innovative teacher can focus on his science teaching activities and let Xplora do the technical development. Have a look at:

<http://www.xplora.org/ww/en/pub/xplora/megalab.htm>

### **Xplora DVD Knoppix**

The Xplora team has developed a live bootable DVD – Xplora Knoppix, based on the Linux Debian distribution and completely contained on a self booting DVD. This Knoppix version is especially mastered for Xplora and contains software applications focused on science education, as well as a number of educational materials from the Xplora repository. As it is open source software it can be given away freely and be copied as well. The Xplora – Knoppix release has a multilingual support – English, French, and German. For more information:

[http://www.xplora.org/ww/en/pub/xplora/news/latestnews/xplora\\_dvd\\_knoppix\\_make\\_sci.htm](http://www.xplora.org/ww/en/pub/xplora/news/latestnews/xplora_dvd_knoppix_make_sci.htm)

### **For registered users the Xplora portal offers many other features, such as:**

- A resource management tool – search for and store learning resources in your personal folder
- Online communities – create or join online communities for science education Online chat tool
- Moderated forum discussions to use our tools for creating online communities and join online discussions
- Web experiments – an online tool for running your science experiments

You can join the Xplora Community for free, just registering at:

<http://www.xplora.org/ww/en/pub/xplora/community/register.cfm>

### **Xplora Newsletter**

The Xplora team edits an online newsletter (every 6 weeks) in which news, activities, events, related to science and education, are featured.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email for free, visit this page: <http://www.xplora.org/ww/en/pub/xplora/news/newsletter.htm>, and put your email address in the apposite box, on the left section of the page. You can also write an email to: [laura.massoli@eun.org](mailto:laura.massoli@eun.org), putting "Xplora newsletter" as subject.

Xplora is open to contributions from teachers, museums, EU projects and others working in science education. To find out how you could contribute, please contact [laura.massoli@eun.org](mailto:laura.massoli@eun.org)

**European Schoolnet** ([www.eun.org](http://www.eun.org)) – a network of 31 Ministries of Education and national agencies across Europe - operates the Xplora portal. Xplora is supported by the PENCIL project, a project funded by the European Commission's Directorate General for Research as part of Science and Society. The PENCIL project is part of the wider Nucleus framework, a cluster of science education projects including Europe's major research laboratories.