



## Using Real Events to Teach Earth- and Space Science

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In 1992, the National Science Foundation (NSF) of the United States of America made a bold statement regarding the way Earth- and space science should be taught. The NSF funded the creation of an experimental middle-school curriculum called Event-Based Science (EBS).

Event-Based Science promised to increase science achievement of middle school science students by establishing relevance, a need-to-know, and a want-to-know. Video-taped television news coverage establishes the relevance; a real-world task creates the need-to-know; while engaging interviews, lively narrative, and team involvement lead to a want-to-know.

The experiment was a great success. The approach worked!

There are now 19 EBS modules that are used by schools throughout the United States. The project began with an Earth- and Space Science focus and produced such titles as *Earthquake!*, *Hurricane!*, *Oil Spill!*, *Toxic Leak!*, *Flood!*, *Asteroid!*, *Volcano!*, *Tornado!*, *Gold Rush!*, and *Global Warming?* A second grant funded the development of modules that focus on Life and Physical Science: *Thrill Ride!*, *Outbreak!*, *Gold Medal!*, *Fraud!*, *First Flight!*, *Blight!*, *Survive?*, *Blackout!*, and *Fire!*.

In this session the originator of Event-Based Science will explain how Event-Based Science works and present evidence on the extraordinary effectiveness of the EBS approach.