Solar variability and climate change

Terry Robinson describes a new model that establishes a physical mechanism for the solar-terrestrial climate connection.

Modelling temperature differences between solar maximum and minimum conditions in the northern hemisphere (left) and the southern hemisphere (right), shown after 60 days.

As a final point, these results have important implications for climate change research. They imply that solar variability and its impact on climate have to be taken into account before the impact of human activities on climate change can be quantified. This does not necessarily imply that anthropological effects are not themselves important. But it is now clear that solar-terrestrial processes do form a backdrop against which any such effect must be assessed.

Reference

News of a planetary initiative for schools, from Andrew Lound.

The Planetary Society has launched a new programme called “Worlds to Discover”, aimed at schools and young people. It is a slide presentation prepared by Linda Hyder, space scientist and discoverer of the first active volcano off the Earth. Features include: a brief explanation of what scientists do when studying the planets; a tour of the solar system featuring some of the very latest images of the planets; future missions to the planets; and the search for life. There is also a question and answer section, where students can e-mail a question to Linda Hyder personally. The programme also gives students the opportunity to join the Explorers’ Club to learn more about the planets and details of the Red Rover, Red Rover telerobotics project for schools and museums. There is also a set of follow-up notes for teachers. For details of the programme, contact Andrew Lound or the Planetary Society Web site.

Andrew Lound is Planetary Society Regional Co-ordinator in Britain, at “yk810@ds1.pipex.com” or at the Web site “http://planetary.org”.

Linda Hyder personally. The programme also gives students the opportunity to join the Explorers’ Club to learn more about the planets and details of the Red Rover, Red Rover telerobotics project for schools and museums. There is also a set of follow-up notes for teachers. For details of the programme, contact Andrew Lound or the Planetary Society Web site.

Andrew Lound is Planetary Society Regional Co-ordinator in Britain, at “yk810@ds1.pipex.com” or at the Web site “http://planetary.org”.

Worlds to Discover