

Project LINK: A Live and Interactive Network of Knowledge

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Project LINK (A Live and Interactive Network of Knowledge), is a collaboration of Eureka Scientific, Inc., the San Francisco Exploratorium Science Museum, and NASA/Ames Research Center. Project LINK has demonstrated video-conferencing capabilities from the Kuiper Airborne Observatory (KAO) to the San Francisco Exploratorium in the context of science education outreach to K-12 teachers and students. The project was intended to pilot-test strategies for facilitating the live interface between scientists and K-12 teachers aboard the KAO with their peers and students through the resources and technical expertise available at science museums and private industry. The interface was based on Internet/macintosh video conferencing capabilities which allowed teachers and students at the Exploratorium to collaborate in a live and interactive manner with teachers and scientists aboard the KAO. The teachers teams chosen for the on-board experiments represented rural and urban school districts in California. The teachers interfaced with colleagues as part of the NASA-Funded Project FOSTER (Flight Opportunities for Science Teacher Enrichment).

Teachers from Project LINK participated on two flights aboard the KAO during the Fall of 1995. Lesson plans, classroom activities, project descriptions and lessons learned are currently being disseminated through the World Wide Web. Further details of this Project LINK can be found at: http://www.exploratorium.edu/learning_studio/link.