THE SIR-C EDUCATION PROGRAM (SIR-CED)

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NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory has produced a free educational package. entitled "The SIR-C Education Program" (SIR-CED), designed as a two- to three-week module for Middle School and nigh School students. SIR-C stands for Spaceborne Imaging Radar-C and is the acronym used for a radar instrument built to fly on the. Space Shuttle and take radar 'pictures' of the Earth. It is scheduled for launch on the, Space Shuttle Endeavor in April and August of 1994. This paper will give a brief introduction to the SIR-CED program and how to obtain the materials produced for the program.

The SIR-CED package consists of: a Teachers' Resource Guide (180 pages); presentation materials; lesson guides, including activities for students; a CD-ROM containing radar images, shuttle hand-held photographs taken by the astronauts, digitized location and topographic maps, ground photos, easy-tcl-use. software for image display and analysis on Macintosh, SUN, and IBM PC computers; documentation; a selection of videos about imaging radar; and teacher workshops for training. The Teachers' Resource Guide contains a basic introduction to NASA's Mission to Planet Earth, hcrw imaging radar and SIR-C fit into that program and how they work, and how scientists use. imaging radar data in their studies of the. Earth's environment. Also included in the package arc easy- to-use software to display the. images provided (for PC, SUN and Macintosh). The comprehensive data set incorporated into the SIR-CED CD-ROM may also be useful for some engineers and scientists, who wish to explore the Potential of radar observation.

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