



“How We Know What We Know”

The scientific community will shine the national spotlight on science in 2009, by celebrating “How We Know What We Know” in a 12-month event: the Year of Science 2009 (YoS09). The goal of this national celebration is to engage the public in science and improve public understanding about how science works, why it matters, and who scientists are. The 12 scientific themes are as follows:

Scientific Themes

- January - Process & Nature of Science
- February - Evolution
- March - Physics and Technology
- April - Energy Resources
- May - Sustainability & Environment
- June - Ocean and Water
- July - Astronomy
- August - Weather and Climate
- September - Biodiversity and Conservation
- October - Geosciences and Planet Earth
- November - Chemistry
- December - Science and Health

Why?

The Year of Science celebrations are led by participants in the Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS), a grassroots network composed of more than four hundred participating organizations representing universities, scientific societies, science centers and museums, government agencies, advocacy groups, media, educators, businesses, and industry - formed in response to recent concerns about national scientific literacy.

2009 Anniversaries & Celebrations in Science

- 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his *On the Origin of Species*
- 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, founder of the National Academy of Sciences
- 400th anniversary of Galileo’s first use of a telescope to study the skies
- 400th anniversary of the publication of Johannes Kepler’s first two Laws of Planetary Motion
- International Year of Astronomy - rediscover the universe through the sky and engage your personal sense of wonder and discovery; www.astronomy2009.org/
- International Year of Planet Earth - fostering outreach and research activities to raise public and political awareness of the vast potential of Earth sciences for improving the quality of life and safeguarding the planet; www.yearofplanetearth.org/