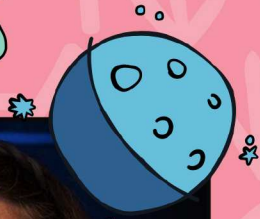


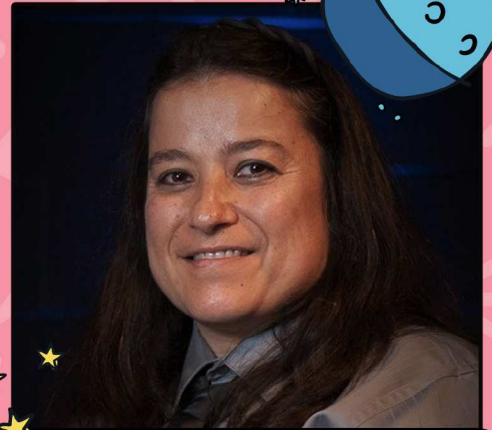


## GALAXY ROCKS



When you look up at night, what do you see? Stars? The moon? Another planet? Telescopes can only see so far, but scientists believe that every star in the night sky has at least one planet nearby. Our own Sun has eight planets surrounding it including Earth. That means there could be billions of planets out there for humans to explore.

Dana Bolles is working on a rover that will be sent to Mars to collect rock and soil samples. This has never been done before! When the samples are returned to Earth, scientists will be able to learn more about what life is like on Mars. In this activity, we'll make imaginary space rocks that are inspired by the beauty of our endless galaxy.



Dana Bolles manages payloads for the International Space Station at NASA HQ.



### YOU WILL NEED :

- Rock
- Parchment paper
- Sponge brush
- Acrylic outdoor paint
- Paintbrush
- (black, blue, purple, magenta, silver)



ALWAYS ASK AN ADULT FOR PERMISSION AND HELP!



1 Protect surface with parchment paper. Then paint the rock black with a sponge brush.



2 While it's still wet, sponge on a small amount of blue, purple, and magenta paint in a random pattern.



3 Dip paintbrush in silver paint, then use your finger to fan the brush, creating splatter patterns on the rock.



## THINK ABOUT IT!

The Milky Way is just one galaxy in our universe. No one is sure how big space is, but scientists believe there may be as many as one hundred billion galaxies of all shapes and sizes. Dana believes there is definitely alien life somewhere out there in the universe—we just have to find it! Even if it's trillions of miles away. What do you think about life on other planets?

On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong was the first human to step foot on the moon. Fifty one years later—on July 20, 2020—NASA's Perseverance Mars Rover launched with a goal of picking up samples and returning to Earth. If humans can accomplish so much in 50 years, what do you think is in store for space travel in the next 50 years?



### LEARN MORE

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/menu/space/>

Everything Space by Helaine Becker  
National Geographic Children's Books, 2015

Astronomy for Kids by Dr. Bruce Betts



### FUN FACT!

A galaxy is a system of stars, gas, and dust that are held together by gravity. Earth is part of a spiral-shaped galaxy called the Milky Way.