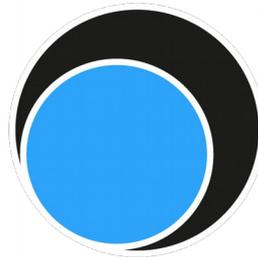




Kid's University: News from the small blue dot

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**ASTRONOMERS
FOR PLANET EARTH**

Framework

- Kid's University Cologne

- Annual project by the university
- Lectures, workshops, lab experiments
- Age 8-12 (8-10 and 10-12 separated)

- Main idea:

- Exploit the attraction of astronomy and space travel to discuss the earth from a cosmic perspective
 - What is special for us on the earth?
 - How does it look somewhere else?



Implementation

- Workshop for kids of 8-10
 - Mixture of lecturing, group work, discussions
 - Helpers needed for every group
 - Material to pain, draw, ...



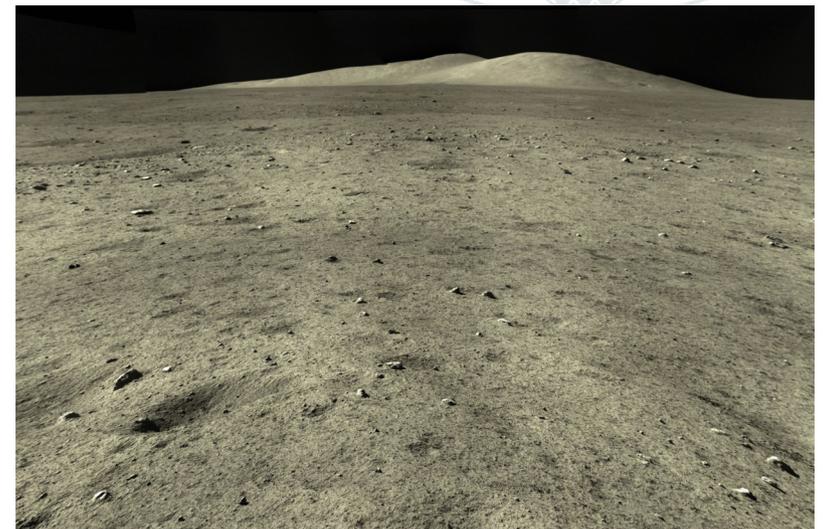
Start

- “Far from earth”
 - Space travel as fascinating entrance point
- Always include kids interactively:



Quiz

What was the most important picture from the Apollo missions?

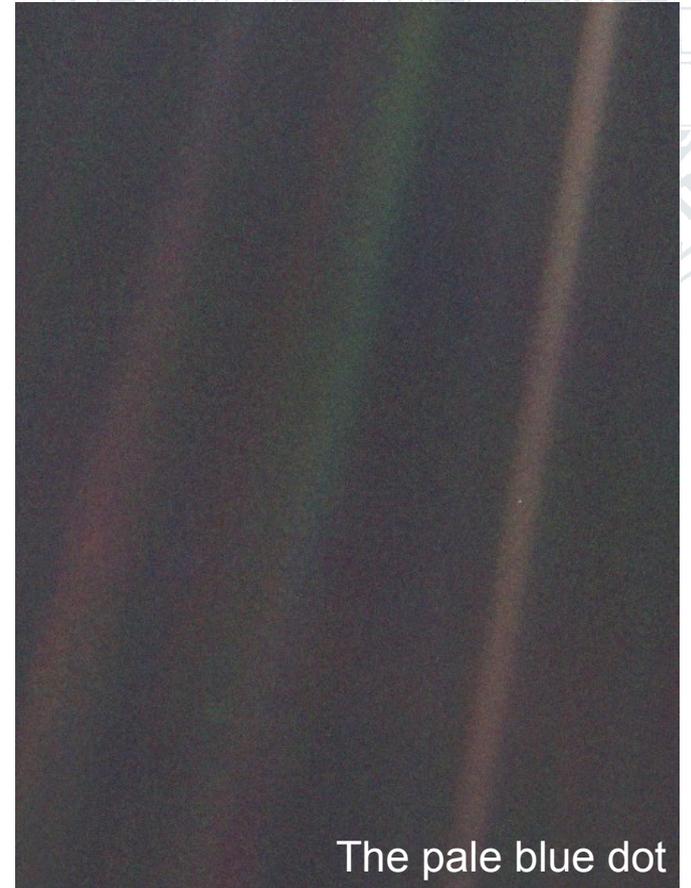


The cosmic perspective

- Earth is tiny and unique in the vast black universe



Apollo 8: 24.12.1968, distance 360000 km



Voyager 1: 14.2.1990, distance 6 Mrd km

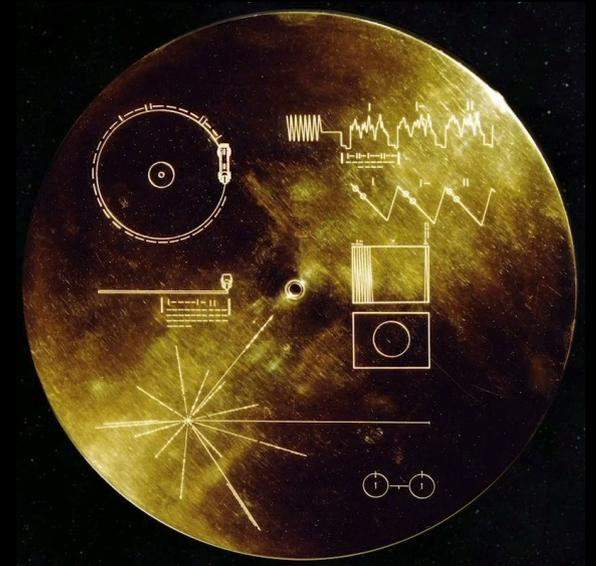
The pale blue dot



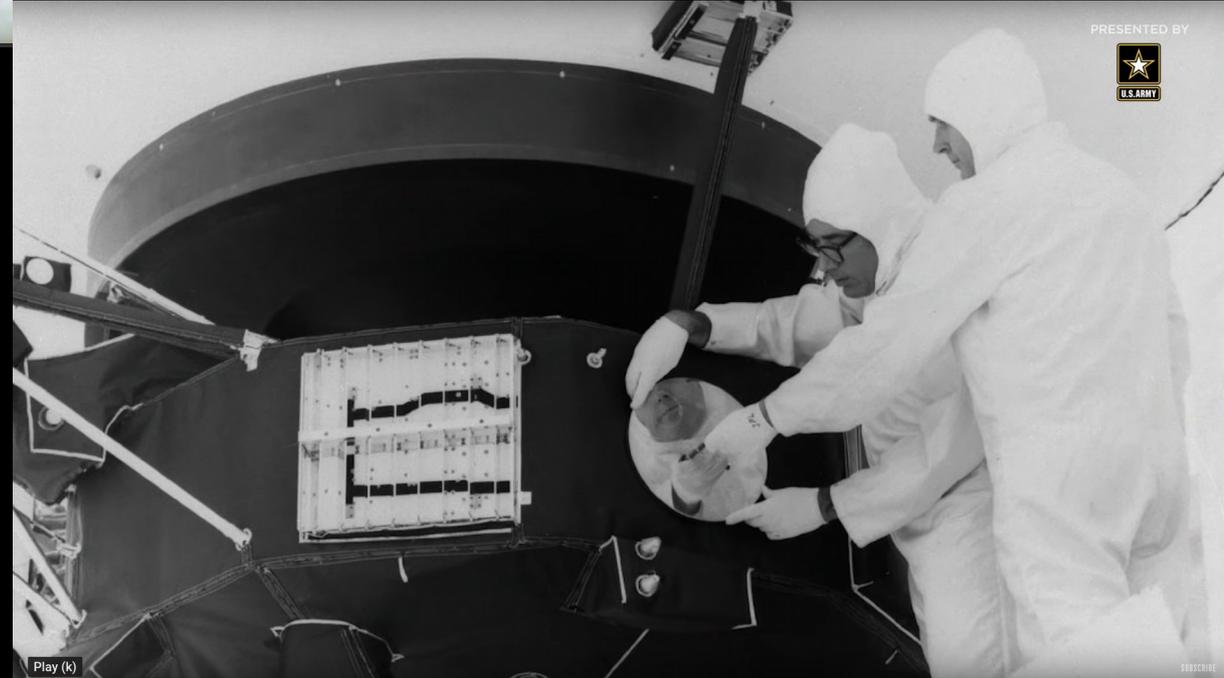




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We decoded NASA's messages to aliens by hand



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Play (k)

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What should be on the Golden Record?

→ **What is most important about Earth and humans?**

Must still be relevant in thousands of years when the spacecraft arrives

- News from the small blue dot!



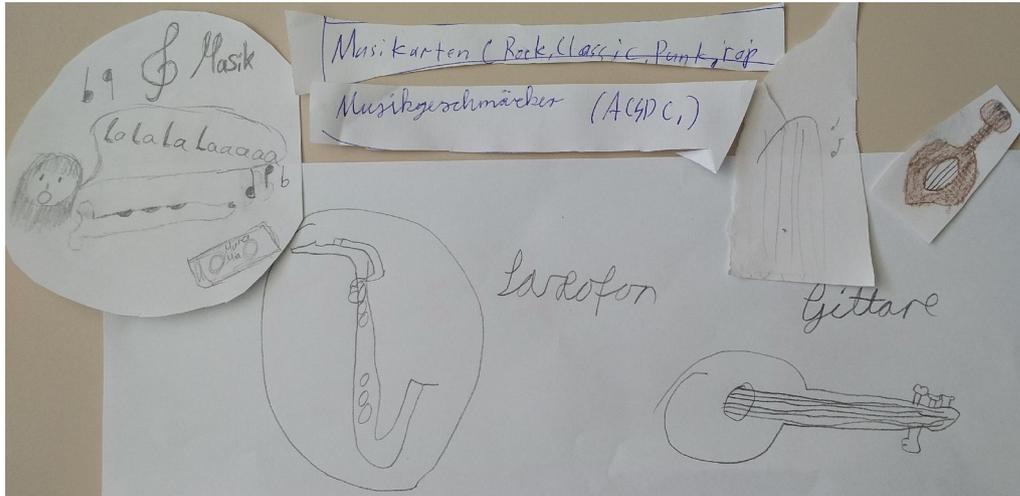
Workshop phase

- Mixture of different elements
 - Active phases, discussion, comparisons, polls/voting



Results

- Many areas covered



- Problems:
 - Strong bias towards school subjects
 - “Copying” instead of own ideas
 - External view very difficult to imagine



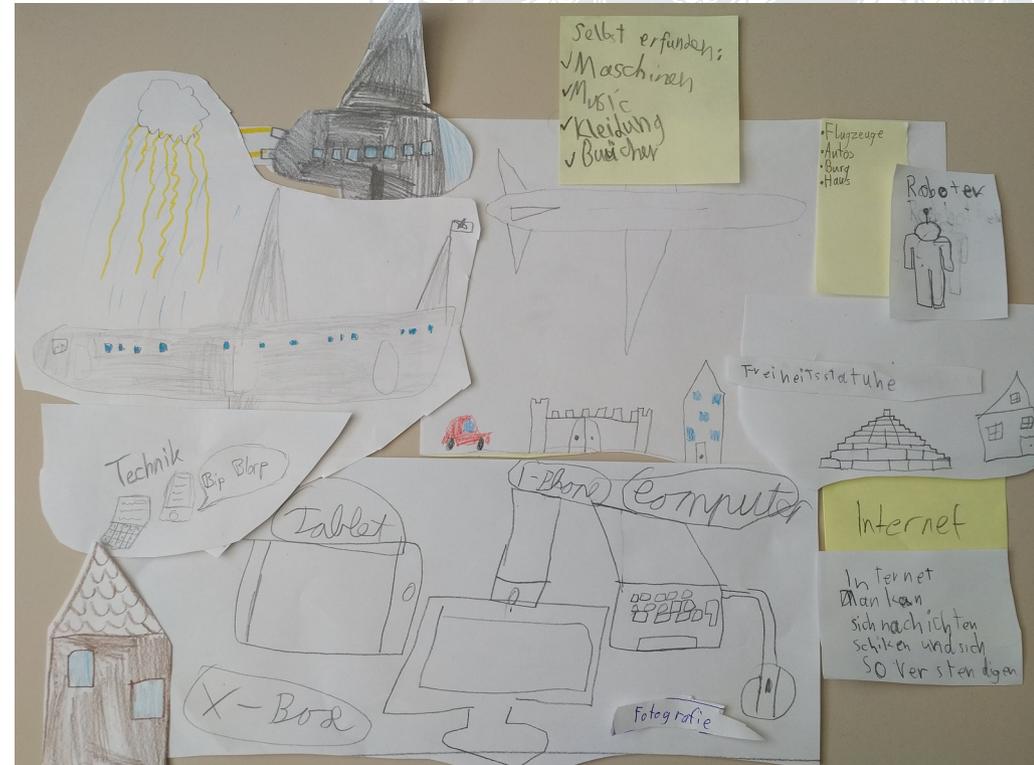
Results

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Part 2: Extraterrestrial perspective

- How does the world look where the spacecraft arrives?

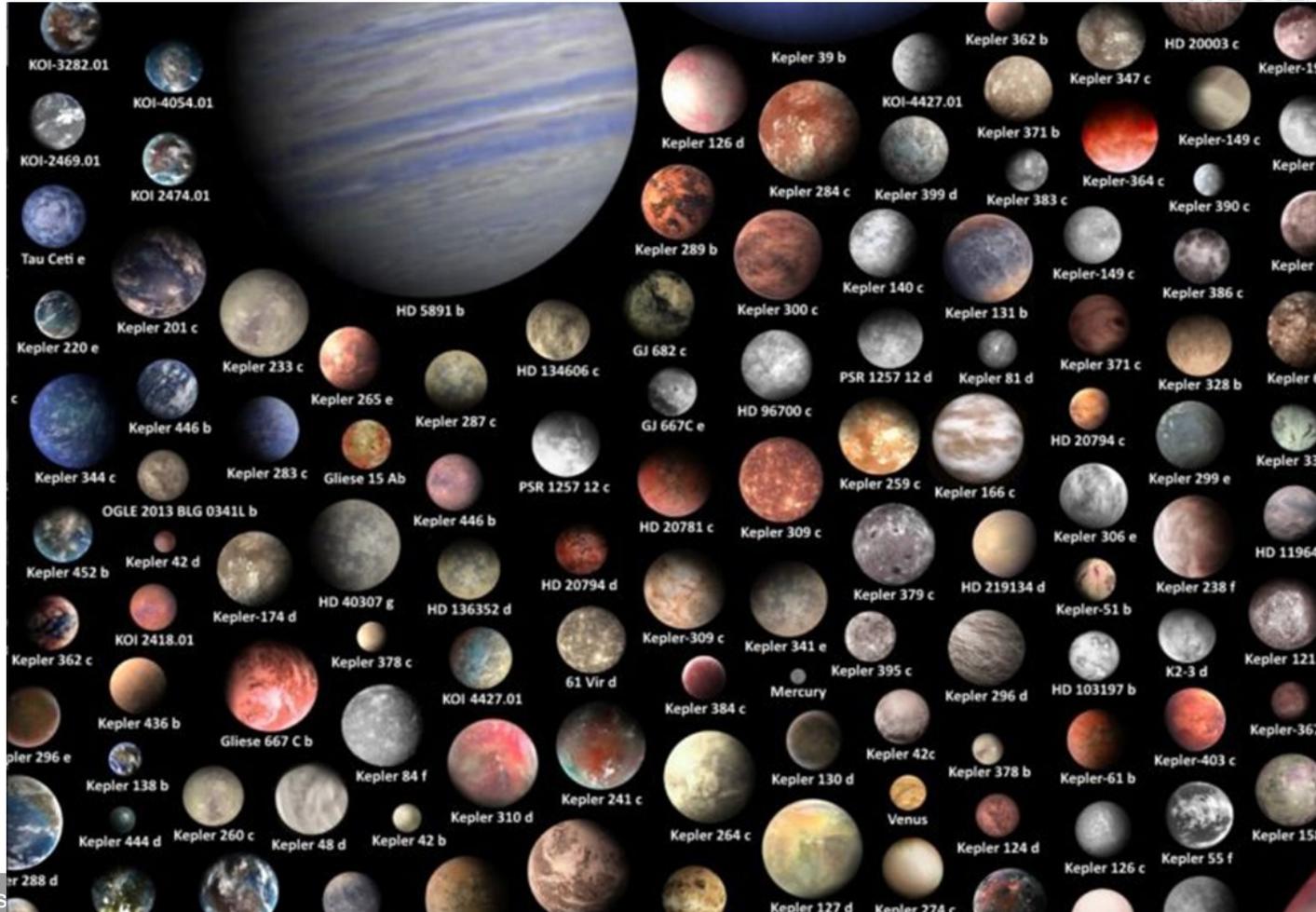


Could we live at
their planet?



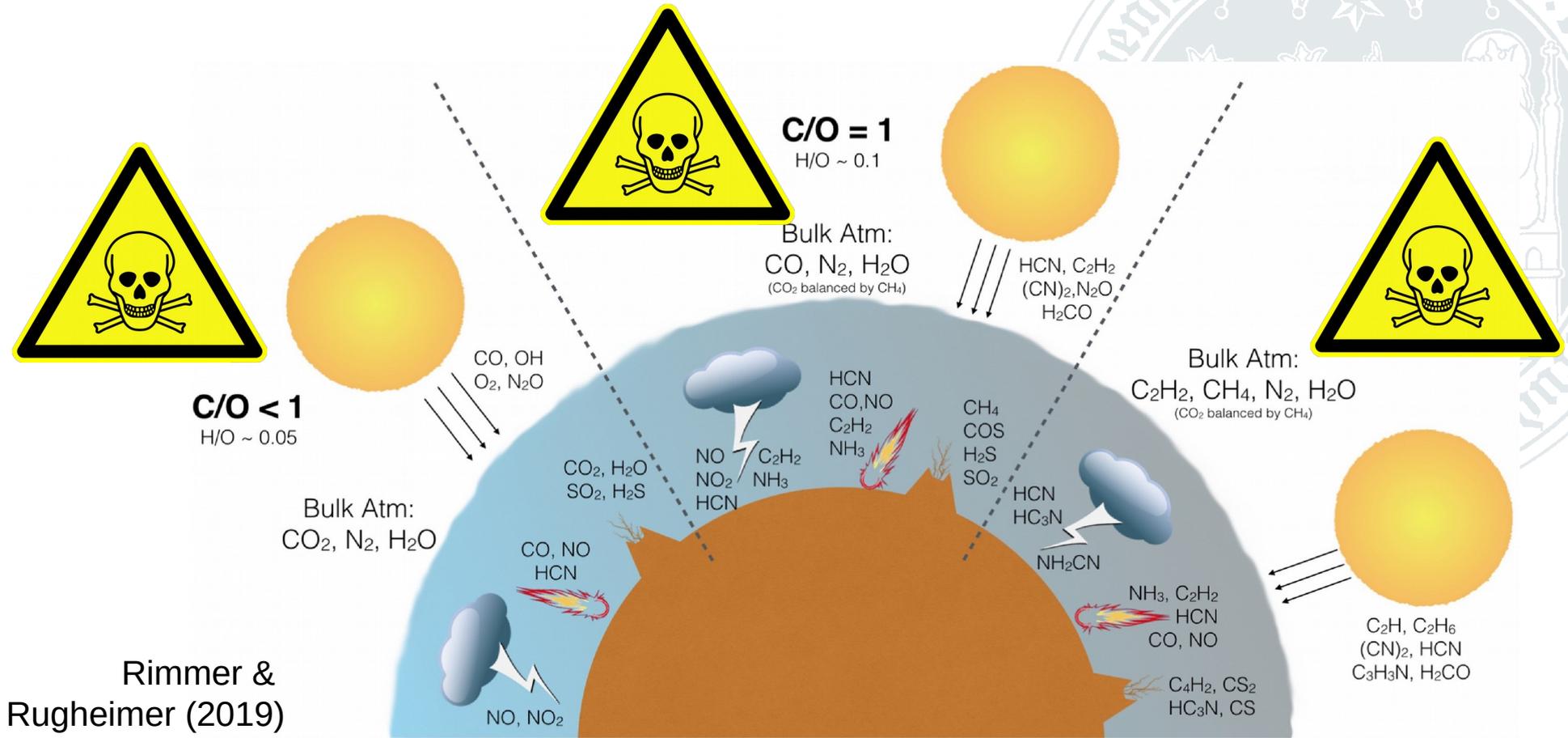
2. Teil: Die außerirdische Perspektive

- How does the world look where the spacecraft arrives?



Could we live at their planet?





- Atmospheres forming on rocky planets always highly poisonous
- Turns into breathable atmosphere only through biosphere = infectious



Results

- Open the view to the really important things on Earth

- **Problem:**

- Difference between temporary achievements and “eternal” values is out of the experience horizon in the age group addressed

- Conclusion drawn:

- There is no planet B for humanity.

- **Problems:**

- Step from the conclusion to the necessity to save the earth still seems far fetched for the target group.
- Strong believe in technical solutions in the audience attracted by the astronomical background.

