



## **Booklets for children related with Earth Sciences published in Mexico**

S.A. Alaniz and A.F. Nieto-Samaniego

Centro de Geociencias, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Campus Juriquilla, Queretaro, Mexico  
(alaniz@dragon.geociencias.unam.mx)

The Centro de Geociencias, at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, has published a series of booklets for children, entitled “Simple experiments to understand a complex Earth”. It is part of the activities of the Mexican committee of the International Year of the Planet Earth.

Each booklet contains experiments related with an Earth Sciences topic and includes the procedure to do one of the “Ten most beautiful experiments in physics” (Crease, P., Physics World May 2002 p17 and September 2002 pp19-20).

In Mexico, as in other developing countries, there is very little information about Science in general and Earth Sciences in particular, in the basic education programs. Also, there is poor bibliography in Spanish about science experiments. For this reason, we try to fill the vacuum by distributing free the booklets in Science Museums and rural basic schools in paper, and by Internet in the Centro de Geociencias web site (<http://www.geociencias.unam.mx/geociencias/difusion/indice.html>).

At present, we have been distributed 100,000 copies of 5 issues:

1. “Atmospheric pressure and the falling bodies”, it deals with the Galileo experiment of falling bodies, he proposed that all the bodies fall down at the same velocity. We discuss the properties of the atmosphere air (temperature, pressure and volume) and concluded that Galileo is right but when the bodies are very light.
2. “The light and the colors” is based in the Newton’s decomposition of sunlight with a prism experiment. This booklet contains nine experiments to explain the colors that we find in Earth like the blue of the sky, the orange of the sunset, the rainbow and the mirage.
3. “¿Eureka! oceans and continents float”. This booklet presents seven experiments related with density and buoyancy to explain the principles of the Plate tectonics theory.
4. “Climate hanging by a thread”, Foucault pendulum demonstrates the rotation of Earth without seeing the stars, in this booklet, we explain, through 9 experiments, how the Earth’s rotation influences climate.
5. “The Earth and its waves”. This booklet presents seven experiments to explain how the knowledge of the wave behavior help us to understand phenomena like tsunamis, earthquakes, colors and telecommunications, etc.

All the booklets are in Spanish, printing was sponsored by the Academia Mexicana de Ciencias, the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico among other institutions. We will bring to the EGU General Assembly some booklets to see if any institution is interested in publishing and distribute them in another language.