



The oldest computer in today's education: The great attractor of children to science, the Antikythera Mechanism, as an educational instrument.

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People have always been charmed by the beauty of the starry sky, the Sun, the Moon, the planets, the Solar System and the mystery of the birth and the evolution of the Cosmos. As the deep space is believed to be the only territory unexplored by the mankind, the humanity has always been looking forward to the discoveries of Space Science. However, due to the complicated character of modern Science and Technology, people usually are alienated from scientific issues. Dealing with this situation, the Space Group of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in collaboration with LESIA of the Observatoire de Paris-Meudon, have been performing several campaigns to raise the public awareness of Science and Astronomy with emphasis to the Solar System exploration. The Space Group of the University of Athens has scientific impact in both the Space Physics field and the public outreach of Astronomy throughout Europe, Northern Africa and the United States of America. Using the Antikythera Mechanism as central object and as a great attractor of children and the general public to astronomy and even philosophy, we have performed numerous outreach activities focalized on the general audience in order to conceptualize astronomical phenomena and change their prior usually not very clear knowledge and intuition. These Solar System events, conducted by our Group, help young people to develop their critical thinking, self-expression and creative talents and eventually to love astronomy and to develop an interest the planets. Their introduction into the space field seems essential for cultivation of these skills.