

Explorer Classroom Event Guide: Grades 4-8

Giant Snail Science with Martina Panisi

January 31, 2022, 10:00 AM & 2:00PM Eastern Time

Help your students get the most out of their Explorer Classroom experience by choosing one or more of the activities from each section below:

FIRST THINGS FIRST

[Register here!](#) Registering your class gives you a chance to be featured on screen with the Explorer, a shout out during the intro, and helpful email reminders before the event. Remember, the further in advance you register the more likely you are to be selected to be onscreen.

BEFORE THE EVENT

Research the Explorer and pick 1 or more activities to complete before the event date:

- ❑ Explorer **Martina Panisi** is a conservation biologist whose work is focused on invertebrates, in particular giant snails! Test your invertebrate knowledge with this fun [Kahoot! Quiz](#). *What is an answer that may have surprised you? What would you like to know more about invertebrates?*
- ❑ Many small invertebrates may go unnoticed but they play important roles in our ecosystems. Some bugs, slugs and snails are considered “decomposers”. **Read** this [encyclopedic entry](#) about the importance of decomposers. You can read more about land snails in [this article](#) from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.
- ❑ Martina’s work requires a lot of skills such as *observation* and *communication*. Take a short walk outside and **observe** the area around you. **Write** down what you see and anything that stands out. Think about what type of wildlife you see. Did you notice any invertebrates? Share your observations with your classmates.
- ❑ Make a map that plots where the Explorer works. You can use a digital tool like [MapMaker](#) or a physical map in the classroom. Add details from the presentation to it. As you attend more Explorer Classroom events, keep adding to the map!
- ❑ **Brainstorm questions for the Explorer** Help your learners revise their questions, making sure they are specific and are asking only one thing. You may need to work together through a few drafts to arrive at a solid final question. Consider using question words like **WHERE, WHAT, WHEN, HOW, WHY, & WHO** to brainstorm a long list of questions, then choose your favorites from the list to ask the Explorer.

DURING THE EVENT

Pick 1 organizer to help you out during the event:

- ❑ [Two-Column Chart](#): Print copies or ask your students to draw their own two-column chart. Have your students write things they are learning in one column and in the other, write questions about that information, or draw something related to it.

- ❑ [Cause-and-Effect Diagram](#): Have your students use this organizer to identify what happened (effect) and why it happened (cause).
- ❑ Your list of questions: write your list of questions you came up with for the explorer on the board, or print copies of the list for the class. As the Explorer presents, see how many answers your class can find!

AFTER THE EVENT

Choose from the discussion questions and reflection activities to process the event:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your favorite part of today's talk? Why?
2. What was one new thing you learned during the Explorer Classroom event you didn't know before?
3. Are there any similar issues in your area?
4. What skills, tools, or knowledge do you think are needed to explore?
5. What do you think the most important message was from the Explorer?

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- ❑ Write a short news article to tell others what the Explorer is working on and why that work is important.
- ❑ Produce a short video or social media post explaining one thing you learned today and one thing you're curious to learn more about.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION RESOURCES

Try one of these related resources and keep exploring with National Geographic Education.

- Read more about Martina's work and the [Forest Giants](#) project. What are some themes from the event today? Where do you see those themes in your community?
- [Backyard Bioblitz](#): Have your students work together to see how many species they can identify in a local ecosystem.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

We LOVE to see student work and share it with the Explorers who inspired it! Please feel free to share student projects and reflections by using the [#ExplorerClassroom](#) and tagging [@NatGeoEducation](#) on Twitter, or by emailing them to explorerclassroom@ngs.org

Looking for more ways to engage your students online, in-person, or at home? Find more on our [Learn Anywhere](#) page or in our [Resource Library](#).