

## References and Further Reading

### Chapter 2: Earth in Space

There is a tremendous amount of research going on to learn more about the nature of space. Almost everyday there are reports of new discoveries about distant parts of the universe or about our own neighborhood in our solar system. We relied on several National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) websites for up-to-date information for this chapter. We named the book after a partial quote from astronaut Frank Borman aboard the Apollo 8 mission to orbit the moon. You can learn more about the Apollo 8 mission, and even listen to their original 1968 Christmas Eve broadcast back to Earth ([http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/lunar/apollo8\\_xmas.html](http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/lunar/apollo8_xmas.html)), as part of the National Space Science data center, NASA's archive for data from space missions.

Information about the history and character of the universe and the life cycle of stars is available at NASA's Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe's Cosmology 101 site ([http://map.gsfc.nasa.gov/m\\_uni.html](http://map.gsfc.nasa.gov/m_uni.html)). Some of the modern technology used to peer into the deepest recesses of space is discussed on NASA's Hubble Space Telescope site (<http://hubble.nasa.gov/>). For more on how humans unraveled the big ideas about how space works, we suggest you check out the book, *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, by Bill Bryson, who does a great job explaining basic scientific ideas in a very straightforward, and frequently funny, manner.

Everything you ever wanted to learn about the sun, including information about the solar wind, sunspots, and the heliosphere, is available from NASA's Solar Physics site (<http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov>). For a general overview of all things related to our solar system, including the characteristics of our own planet, you can't do much better than Calvin Hamilton's Views of the Solar System site ([www.solarviews.com](http://www.solarviews.com)). NASA's attractive Solar System Exploration site is also definitely worth a visit (<http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/>). NASA's research on earth science is detailed at <http://science.nasa.gov/Earthscience.htm>. The question, Why is it colder in winter than in summer? was asked in a video produced by the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics titled A Private Universe. The program explores why students do not understand some of the most basic scientific ideas, even when they are exposed to them repeatedly through their education.

For more about the geothermal and solar renewable energy sources discussed in this chapter, go to the Energy Information Administration's website on Renewable and Alternative Fuels at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/fuelrenewable.html>. Finally, much of what scientists are doing to investigate if we are alone in the universe is available at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab's Origins site (<http://genesission.jpl.nasa.gov/>) that seeks to combine astronomy, physics, geology, and biology to search for other habitable planets.