ENSO Student Research Campaign:
2015-2016 “El Niño in My Neighborhood” Stories

For the Oct. 18th webinar- Please send your slides to dorian.w.janney@nasa.gov by Oct. 16th!
We want your story!

For the Oct. 18th webinar, we are collecting stories from around the world from GLOBE students. We want a slide from you telling us how the 2015-2016 El Niño impacted your location. All you have to do is include a map showing where your school is, and write a few sentences telling us what changes your “neighborhood” had a result of last year’s El Niño. You will see an example on the next page.
El Niño Impact at Cedar Grove ES, Clarksburg, MD USA

Here in Clarksburg, MD, we saw some impacts of the 2015-2016 El Niño. We had above average temperatures and above average precipitation between Nov. and Feb. There was a big snowstorm in Jan. when we finally got some cold weather, but other than that- we hardly had any snow.
The students at Main Street School record min/max air temperature and surface temperature. During December of 2015 we noticed that the surface temperature on the grassy site was the warmest it had been in ten years of data. The minimum/maximum air temperature was much warmer than in the previous two years, but similar to 2012 during Dec. – Feb. A cooler than normal spring was followed by the warmest summer ever. My students would like to compare our min/max air temperature to other El Nino years.
Minas Gerais school has been collecting precipitation and MAX/MIN temperatures as part of El Niño investigation. Here, in Rio de Janeiro we saw some impacts of the 2015-2016 El Niño. We had the wettest summer in years, the heat exceeded the average maximum temperature. February was the hottest month, with 36 degrees. The summer was also marked by rain. Last March we had the largest amount of rainfall of the year in Saude, Rio de Janeiro.
Efeitos do El Niño nas vizinhanças da Escola de Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

El Niño Impact at Shumate Middle School - Gibraltar, MI USA

Shumate Sixth Grade Scientists are collecting soil moisture samples, measuring surface and soil temperatures and precipitation, and monitoring temperature and clouds as part of the ENSO field campaign. After just having a very mild winter due to El Nino, our students are keeping an eye on what this winter has in store. #GettingScienceDone
El Niño Impact at Bozeman HS, Bozeman, MT USA

Here in Bozeman, MT, we saw some impacts of the 2015-2016 El Niño. We saw above average temperatures and below average precipitation November though May. We had below average snow fall which gave us a shortened ski season. We had an early and prolonged fire season.
El Niño Impact at Memorial Middle School, Medford, NJ

Compared to Winters 2013-14 and 2014-15, this past winter was downright balmy! And for all of my skiing friends...snow poor! It didn’t seem right to do Holiday Shopping in warm December. Philadelphia and surrounding areas had record high temperatures on Christmas Day! But, then, as often happens when the polar and subtropical Jet Streams collide, we had a massive snow storm. The Blizzard of January 2016 was the 4th worst in US Northeast history. And who was the culprit behind this wacky weather? Why, El Niño of course.

Oh...and let’s not forget the quiet hurricane season we had this summer. Up until last month! El Niño has faded, you say? That explains it!
We have been collecting precipitation and MAX/MIN temperatures as part of El Niño investigation. These data have started us looking at what we usually think of as “average”. We are keeping a very close eye on not just how much rainfall we get each month, but how we are getting this rainfall as we experience serious drought across our region.
El Niño Impact at Caracas, DC, Venezuela

We experienced some interesting events during the El Niño which made us to pay attention to those events. Some events have relation to the temperature where it was possible to observe days with fog (unusual), nights with high and cold temperatures (unusual), and solar and moon halo (unusual).