

Students Win “Bragging Rights,” For Choosing "Los huelllos" (Footprints) As Name For Two Undersea Calderas.

When ocean explorers at sea on an ocean expedition asked for help from students to name a pair of undersea calderas in the Pacific Ocean near the Galapagos spreading zone, school classes from across the nation submitted votes for one of six names suggested by the explorers. The winning name is "Los huelllos," (footprints). Calderas are large underwater craters formed by a volcanic explosion or the collapse of a volcanic cone.

Students in classes that selected the winning name now have "name bragging rights." They include students in:

- Ms. Leigh Zinskie's 4th period Earth Science class (6th grade) at Needwood Middle School in Brunswick, Georgia.
- Ms. Mary LeJeune's Earth Science class (8th grade) at Berwick Junior High in Berwick, Louisiana
- Ms. Anna Butler's 1st period and 6th period Life Science classes (7th grade) at Lakeside Junior High in Orange Park, Florida.
- Ms. Cathy Webb's class at Edmonds Homeschool Resource Center, Edmonds, Washington where Ms. Webb's students reported the craters' outlines and positions resemble footprints.
- Ms. Joy Higgins' classes in College Biology (10th grade and Period 4), and in Anatomy and Physiology (10th grade) at Rockland High School in Rockland, Massachusetts where students thought the calderas looked like footprints as seen left along a beach.
- Ms. Tanya Speyrer's Environmental Science class (11-12 grades) at Bastrop High School in Bastrop, Louisiana. Students there felt that the calderas looked like two footprints and that footprints indicate something has come and something has left--a full cycle, like the life of a volcano.
- Ms. Vicki Soutar's class in Oceanography (11-12 grades) at Oconee County High School in Watkinsville, Georgia. After viewing the sonar image of the calderas, her students felt that the calderas looked like a giant's footprint.
- Mr. John Dello Russo's Environment I class (11th grade) at Greater Lawrence Technical School in Lawrence, Massachusetts, where his students thought the calderas reminded them of the achievements of the first steps, or footprints left behind on the moon and its correlation to the mysteries of our magnificent ocean depths.
- Ms. Carol Bayless' 1st period Earth Science class (8th grade) at Creekland Middle School in Lawrenceville, Georgia
- Ms. Mina Marsden's, Aquatic Science & Independent Study classes (10-12 grades) at Roosevelt High School in San Antonio, Texas

Teachers were asked to have classes review coverage of the ocean exploration at sea, by visiting the mission named, “Galapagos: Where Ridge Meets Hotspot,” at <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/05galapagos/> The mission is sponsored by NOAA and the National Science Foundation. By reading the daily logs from scientists at sea and other sections of NOAA's Ocean Explorer Web coverage, students become virtual explorers on the mission. Scientist-explorers mapped two underwater calderas that were previously discovered, but not yet named. A sonar map of the calderas is at: http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/05galapagos/logs/dec5/media/las_calderas_max_600.html.

Classes were invited to choose their favorite from these possible names: Hot Feet, Snake Eyes, Moon Boots, Spectacles, Los gemelos (Twins) and Los huellos (Footprints). The single name covers both calderas. While "Los huellos," received the greatest number of votes, "Snake Eyes," and "Moon Boots" were nearly tied for second most popular choice.

"Snake Eyes," was the choice of Mrs. Leigh Zinskie's Earth Science classes in 1st, 2nd and 3rd periods (6th grade) at Needwood Middle School in Brunswick, Georgia. Also choosing "Snake Eyes," were students in Ms. Kristen English and Ms. Jeanne Schultz's 3rd period Earth Science class (6th grade), at Haynes Bridge Middle School in Alpharetta, Georgia. Ms. Lauer's 2nd period (8th grade) Earth Science class at East Columbus Magnet Academy in Columbus, Georgia chose "Snake Eyes" for the name of the caldera, because "they look oval like a snake's eyes," and Ms. Delilah Stemke's Enrichment After-School GATE Science class named Science Odessey (6-8 grades), at Redwood Middle School in Napa, California also voted for "Snake Eyes" because of the look of the calderas on the sonar image. Ms. Christina Marks' G&T Science class (5th grade) at Wm. H. Ross School in Margate, New Jersey, chose "Snake Eyes," because students thought it looked like a snake's eyes staring at them.

"Moon Boots," was selected by Ms. Chantelle Rose's class in Physical Science (9-12 grades) at Graham High School in St. Paris, Ohio. "My students selected 'Moon Boots' because they felt the calderas reminded them of the steps Neil Armstrong immortalized at the Sea of Tranquility on July 20, 1969. I am an enthusiastic space 'geek' and it has rubbed off on my students. It is also neat to have a connection between the two final frontiers...space and the deep ocean!," she said. "Moon Boots" was also the choice of Anna Butler's 3rd and 5th period Advanced Life Science classes (7th grade), at Lakeside Junior High in Orange Park, Florida, while her 2nd period class voted for "Hot Feet." Ms. Carol Bayless' 2nd period Earth Science class at Creekland Middle School in Lawrenceville, Georgia chose "Moon Boots," while her 3rd and 4th period classes chose "Los gemelos."

Mr. Mark Tohulka's Honors Marine Science class (10-12 grades) at MAST Academy High School in Miami chose "Hot Feet," because students liked the reference to "heat" for volcanic features, as well as the remarkable resemblance to footprints. Also choosing "Hot Feet" was Ms. Jeanne Schultz's 4th Period Earth Science class (6th grade) at Haynes Bridge Middle School in Alpharetta, Georgia "Hot Feet," was selected by Ms. Mellie Lewis' Science class (5th grade) at Atholton Elementary School in Columbia, Maryland because students there thought the calderas looked like two footprints in a very hot environment.

Ms. Cindy Drouhard's Life Science class (6th grade) at Calapooia Middle School in Albany, Oregon selected the name "Spectacles," because students thought the pair of calderas looked like glasses and that it was a fun name.. Ms. Drouhard's 4th period Earth Science class (8th grade) voted for "Moon Boots," because students thought that the ridges on the bottom of the boots are similar to what the topography looks like surrounding the caldera. Also, it was stated that Napoleon Dynamite wore moon boots and he is thought to be a great American hero. Her 8th grade Earth Science class thought the calderas looked like footsteps or a shoeprint and that "Moon Boots," is a cool name. Different name, but same reason--"Snake Eyes" was the choice of Ms. Drouhard's 6th period Life Science class (6th Grade) because they thought it was a cool name. Ms. Drouhard's 8th period 8th grade Earth Science class voted for "Los gemelos (twins)" because students believed a Spanish name should be used. "Los gemelos" was also the choice of Chris Upton's Biology class (10th grade) at American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, Connecticut. And students in Ms. Christine Kerrigan's 4th grade class at Campbell Park

Elementary, in St. Petersburg, Florida selected Los gemelos because they have identical twins, one in Ms. Kerrigan's class and one in the other 4th grade class.