



Images from National Informal STEM Education Network:
www.nisenet.org/catalog/exploring-universe-pack-space-telescope-2018

The [James Webb Space Telescope](#) is scheduled to be launched in 2021. It will be the largest, most powerful, and complex space telescope ever built. One of its goals is to measure the physical and chemical properties of planetary systems, including our own Solar System, and investigate the potential for life in those systems.

*Artist's conception of the JWST.
Image: Northrop Grumman.*

The James Webb Space Telescope is made up of several key parts:

The [Primary Mirror](#) gathers the light coming from space. The bigger the mirror is, the more light can be collected, and the better distant objects can be seen.

The [Sunshield](#) protects the telescope's instruments from the heat and light of the Sun.

The [Science and Instrument](#) houses all of the cameras and scientific instruments.