

NASA Mission: GRACE-FO
Pedagogy Option 7

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Lessons from the Ocean
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On May 29, I took part in the webinar called NASA Mission GRACE-FO, which talked about tracking and monitoring Earth's water in motion and levels. The speaker was Dr. Brandon Rodriguez from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He gave a lot of information talking about what they do at the Jet Propulsion Lab and how it benefits us as educators.

While I teach science to my students, my academic focus for my undergraduate was special education and learning behavioral analysis. The only science classes I took in college were the freshmen requirements of Biology and Chemistry, but I had no classes about how to teach science. I have always loved science and was blessed with some great science teachers in high school, which is why I decided to get my masters in this program. I have loved every minute of every class because I am learning so much because everything is new to me. However, at times, this makes me feel out of my depth because I do not know many things that I feel my classmates already know and use. So, the webinar was extremely useful for me to get information and resources I can use next school year. Dr. Rodriguez gave websites with information that can be used for students to analyze data from NASA's missions and satellite data. He also talked about what data is available to talk about climate change and explained what and how is affecting the ocean levels rising. He explained very well using an example of boats and displacement of cargo to explain why glaciers melting affects the ocean levels more than the ice caps. The way he demonstrated it

caused me to be able to understand it easily and know how to explain it to my students.

I enjoyed the webinar about GRACE-FO, especially when Dr. Rodriguez explained how the satellites are able to tell the water levels of the ground and the ocean levels. I knew satellites were used to collect data but I did not know how it was done. I can't wait to bring this information to my students next year and tie it into our lessons about ecosystems and biomes.