

Film Title and Release Date: *NOVA: Death Dive to Saturn* (2019)

Film Length: 54 minutes

Film Genre: Science

Reviewer Name and Grade: Alexander S., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 29, 2021

This film, *NOVA: Death Dive to Saturn* is about the spacecraft, Cassini, and its mission to Saturn. Saturn is a very diverse planetary system, with over 60 moons and beautiful rings. Its moons are very diverse, with one even having a possibility of life. The film also tells about the history of telescopes, starting with Christiaan Huygens extremely long telescopes, and going all the way to telescopes in space.

The spacecraft Cassini is sent to space to study Saturn. During its time there, it makes many dangerous fly throughs between Saturn and its rings. Cassini also learned a lot about Saturn's moons, in particular Titan and Enceladus. Scientists found Titan had lakes, rivers, rocks, and rain. On the other hand, Enceladus is unique on its own. Scientists find out that Enceladus's south pole has dozens of plumes shooting water and ice, which sometimes comes back down as snow, making it smooth. The water supplying these plumes comes from a water reservoir underneath the surface of Enceladus, an entire ocean spanning the entire moon. There are also probably hydrothermal vents in Enceladus, and so is the best place to search for life. Enceladus also supplies the E-ring of Saturn. Cassini also investigates Saturn's rings, and shows scientists that small moons create waves in the rings. Last but not least, Cassini detects Saturn's magnetic fields, and scientists deduce that Saturn has a solid core. Finally, after 20 years, Cassini runs out of fuel, and the scientist orders it to crash into Saturn.

How did you find the film on Kanopy?

I went to Browse, Science, Astronomy and Aeronautics, and it was the seventh option in most popular.

Did the presentation of information keep you interested?

The film was always introducing new topics and ideas that were related to the topic. There were special guests throughout the film, there was footage from JPL, and there were videos of simulations of the Cassini spacecraft orbiting Saturn. They thoroughly explained everything Cassini discovered, however failed to talk about Cassini's beginning.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?

Like the previous PBS film, the pace of this one was just right, the narrators talked slowly so viewers could understand and comprehend what they were saying, but not too slow so that the viewers would have to wait.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

This film is appropriate for middle schools and up. Elementary school students might not understand molecules, magnitude, and overall the science discussed in this film.

4 stars: I enjoyed this film and found it worthwhile to watch.

This film was really good like the previous PBS film I reviewed, with special guests, stunning graphics, and overall great structure to the film. However I would like to know more about Cassini, its travel to Saturn, what instruments were on it, and more about its origins.