

Create Your Own Planet

Ages: 5–11 (Grades 1–6)

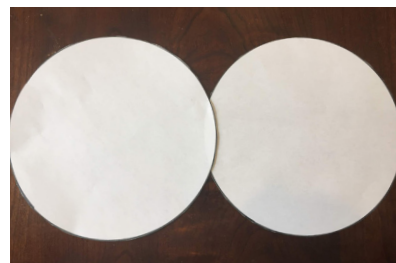
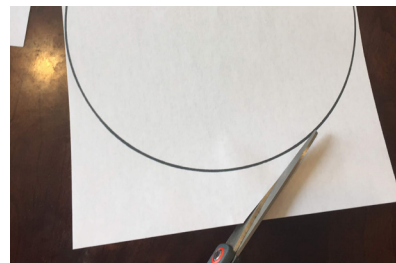
Duration: 30 minutes

Materials needed:

- Two large pieces of paper
- A pencil and markers/crayons
- Scrap paper, like old newspapers or magazines
- Stapler or tape
- Optional: something to trace a big circle with (for example a bowl or can!)

Procedure:

1. Take your two pieces of paper. On each piece, trace or draw a circle of equal size. Try to make the circle as large as you can fit it on the paper.
2. Cut out both circles.
3. Place the circle cutouts on top of each other, and safely using the stapler (you may need to ask a grown-up for help!), place a few staples on the bottom half of the circles leaving the top half open. It should resemble a pocket. If you don't have access to a stapler, use tape instead.
4. Choose a planet and look closely at the image. If you would like a closer look, visit the [NASA webpage](https://www.nasa.gov) and zoom in on the planet.
5. What color is the planet? Are there any features that are unique to the planet, such as the Great Red Spot on Jupiter or the rings of Saturn? What is the texture of the surface? Is it rocky? Does it have wind storms on the surface? Are there clouds?
6. What is the size of the planet? How does it compare to other planets in the solar system? Is the planet really hot or really cold?
7. On one side of the circle pocket that you made, recreate the planet you chose. Look closely at



the planet, and think about the colors needed to make an accurate depiction of your planet.

8. Flip your circle pocket over, and make your own imaginary planet! Your planet can be something silly, like a pizza planet, a unicorn planet, or a basketball planet. You can also pretend that you discovered a new planet, and make one that resembles the planets that we have in our solar system. Think about whether or not there are living creatures on that planet, and what they would need to survive. Name your imaginary planet when you have finished.
9. Once you have completed both sides of the circle pocket, crumple up one or two pieces of newspaper and stuff them into the pocket. After stuffing your planet, continue to staple (with the help of an adult) the rest of the circle pocket.

Share your work:

Take a photo of your picture and post it to Instagram using the hashtags #MuseumFromHome and #DailyPlanet, and tag the Museum.

