

Activity 1: The Brightness and Beauty of Venus

Ancient astronomers named the Sun and the five visible planets Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn after their great gods. The planet Venus was named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty. From Earth, Venus appears the second brightest body in the night sky after the moon. Perhaps it is because of its brightness and beautiful sight that it was named Venus.

To Do: Below are some images of the planet Venus made by artists, and scientists.

Create your own picture of Venus. You may paint, draw or make a collage using colourful patterned scrap paper.





Activity 2: Extreme Venus

Venus is often called “Earth’s sister” as they have a few things in common, such as their size and structure but the environment on Venus is very different to Earth.

It is very hot, the hottest planet in our Solar System, its atmosphere is full of poisonous gases, there are violent winds, thunderstorms and it’s full of acid rain and clouds (that smell like rotten eggs).

Not a nice place to go for your holidays.

But if you were a space explorer exploring Venus you would need to wear a very special suit that keeps you cool (both in temperature and style) in a super-hot world.

To Do: Design a special spacesuit to wear on Venus. This suit would need to be light but super strong and also keep you cool in the Venus weather. Customize your suit with some special features like gravity boots, an alien translation- device, or a metal umbrella for Venus’ acid rain!





Activity 3: Volcanoland

Scientists have discovered that Venus is covered in volcanoes, sand dunes, ancient lava and mountains. Venus is thought to contain 1,600 extinct volcanoes. But are all the volcanoes really extinct? Scientists think some volcanoes may still be active.

To Do: Make a model of Venus' surface inspired by the information given above. You can use a range of material like clay, play dough, paper mache, etc.

To make a paper mache volcano see:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rg9_w11vKhs



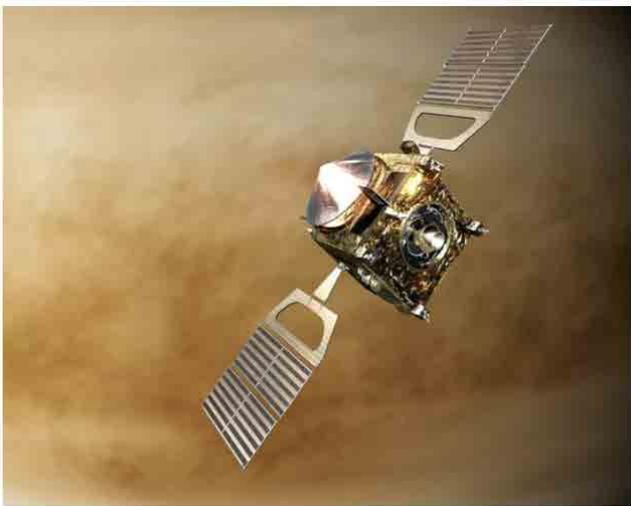


Activity 4: The Venus Express

The skies on Venus are filled with toxic gases. These look like clouds and hide the surface so it is difficult to see what Venus looks like. Astronomers use spacecrafts to get a clear view of it, so they can create 3D maps and images of the planet. These robotic spacecraft's have interesting names like Venera, Vega, Magellan, but the one we like the best is called Venus Express and it looks great! See pictures below.

To Do: Imagine you are a designer in charge of creating the latest spacecraft needed to collect clear images of Venus.

What will your machine look like? Make a drawing of it.
Can you build one with the 3d recycled material you may find around the house?



The Venus Express in orbit around Venus



Right: Orbiters made with recycled cardboard tubes, aluminium foil and cup cakes.





Activity 5: Mission Patch

For every mission to space astronauts design a mission patch. The patch represents the work astronauts do during the mission.

Their team's mission patch is then sewn on to the spacesuits.

To Do: How would you design your patch if you were headed to space? This could include your name, the date of your next space flight, a mission number, and a special space-inspired image.

