

## Icosa-Planet

There are so many ways that kids can represent the Solar System; to scale in the schoolyard, using balls and peppercorns, performing, drawing...

In every case the idea is to conceptualize the planets that we have never seen and (probably) never will.

In this imaginative craft activity, children make planets, using a template of an icosahedron.

They are encouraged to ponder: What is it really like on Neptune where the winds blow at 2,000 km an hour?

What would it be like on a 'gas giant' such as Saturn, that isn't actually solid at all?

What do the rings of Neptune, Jupiter and Uranus look like?

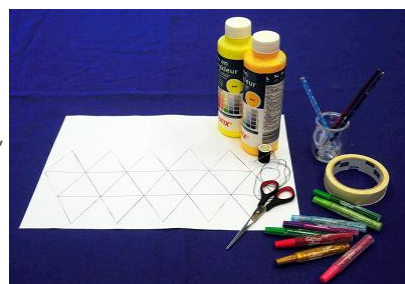
They then decorate their planets with sand, glue, cotton-wool, paint, glitter... the sky is the limit.

## Icosa-Planet



- *GOAL:* Encourage children to imagine the planets of the Solar System, according to the facts known.

- *MATERIALS:* white cardboard, scissors, tape, paint, a needle and thread. (Also 'Craft Stuff' like: plastic, foil, construction paper, different kinds of sand, plasticine, mud, string, fuzzy yarn, cloth, foam, stickers, glitter glue, cotton-wool bubble wrap, etc. )



- **AGE GROUP:** Adult supervised activity for 5 years and up

Download the activity sheet here

[Icosa-Planet PDF \(11Mb\)](#)

Download here

[Icosahedron template PDF \(27 Kb\)](#)

Download here

[Earth as a Icosahedron PDF \(660 Kb\)](#)

- **What to do**

**Step 1.** Having READ to the children some of the extraordinary conditions that exist on the planets of the Solar System: see for example,

[Did you know this about the Solar System?](#)

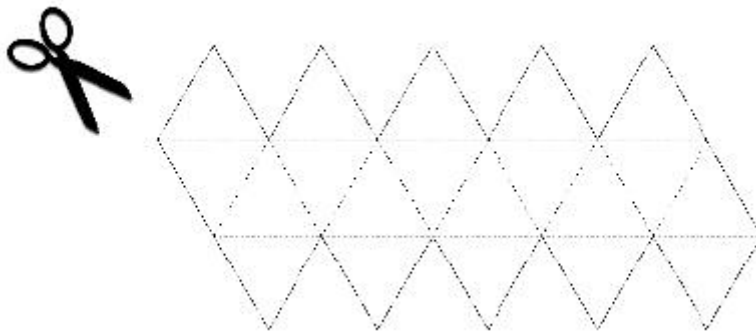
ask each child to choose a planet they want to make.

- **Step 2.**

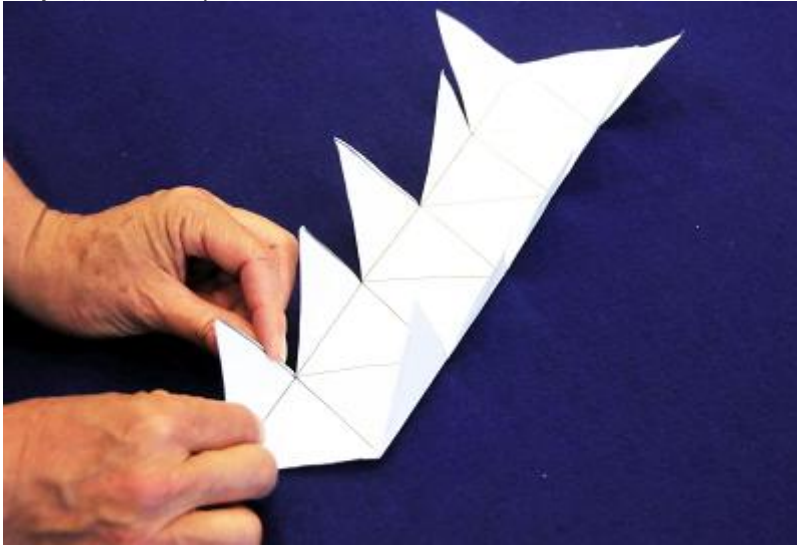
Print out the icosahedron template. For best results, it should be at least A3 in size.

- **Step 3.**

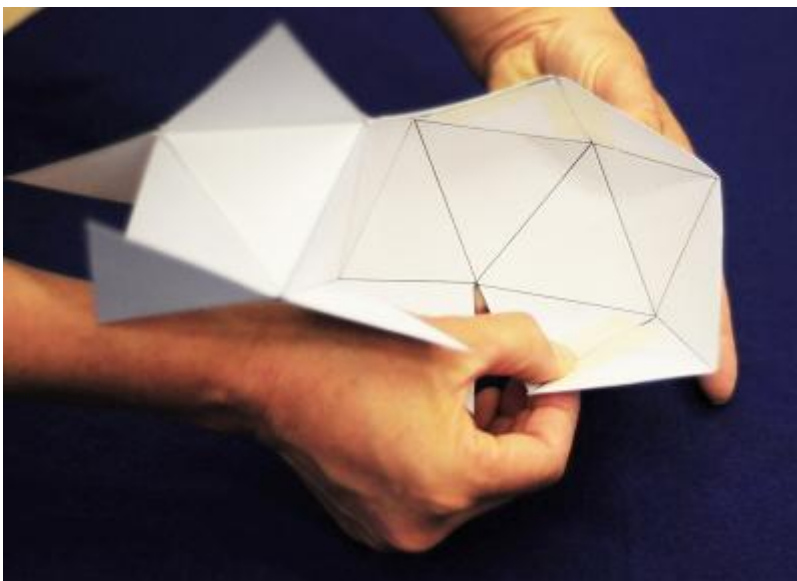
Cut out the icosahedron along the solid lines only.



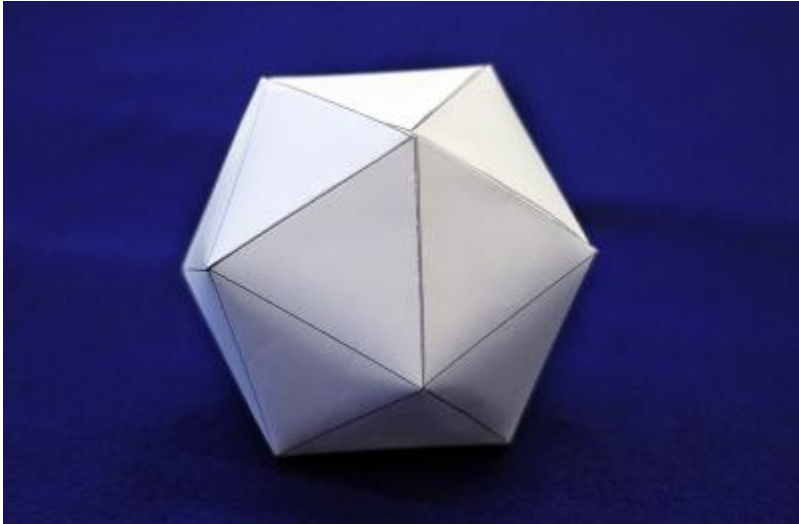
- **Step 4.** Fold along the dotted lines.



- **Step 5.** Tape together the adjacent faces.



- **Step 6.** Ask the children to decorate their plain planet according to the facts they have heard. Make available a range of craft materials or encourage the kids to find what they need. If you are low on funds, try to resource industrial discards, off-cuts and over-runs. Not only are they unusual and useful for creative purposes, you are helping reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.



- **Step 7.** Hang the planets in the classroom and invite children to guess which planet is which.



*"My planet is dusty and red, and sometimes huge dust storms cover the surface for days. What am I?"*

- **Step 8.** You can also make the Earth as an Icosahedron!



Source: UNAWE Venezuela