UNAWE



Universe Awareness for Young Children

Super Saturn

Ask a child to draw a planet, and the first one that they will often come up with is Saturn. There is something about those rings that captures a child's imagination. Make a Super Saturn, suspend it and send it spinning.

Super Saturn



GOAL: Explore the planet Saturn in a creative way. Use imaginative craft ideas to illustrate how Saturn's rings are formed.

MATERIALS: Polystyrene ball (35mm diameter), cardboard cutter, pencil, CD (preferably with no writing on it), Wood glue. Glitter glue, Needle and thread.



A

AGE GROUP: Paired activity for 6 years and up. CAUTION* Safety with needle and cardboard cutter



WHAT TO DO:

 Work in pairs. Draw a straight line around the middle of the ball. If you are having difficulty making it straight, choose one child to turn the polystyrene ball in both hands while the other child holds the pencil steady in one spot.



 Ask an adult to cut the ball exactly through the middle

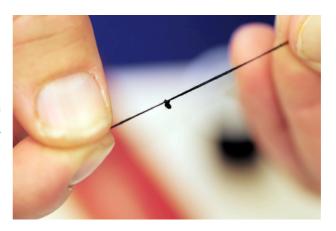


You will have 2 equal halves





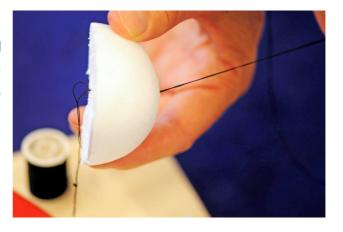
 Thread your needle with strong thread about 30 cm in length and knot it securely at one end.



 Pierce one half of the ball and thread the cotton through the centre.



 Give the thread a tug and make sure that the knotted end cannot pass through.



• Cut the thread close to the needle.



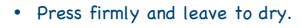




• Smear one half of the sphere with wood glue.



 Align with the centre of the CD





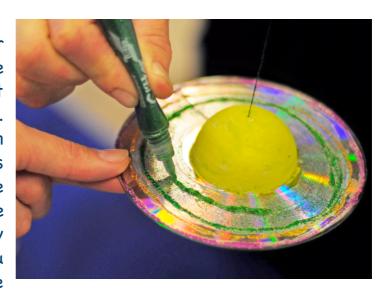
 When dry, do the same with the other half.



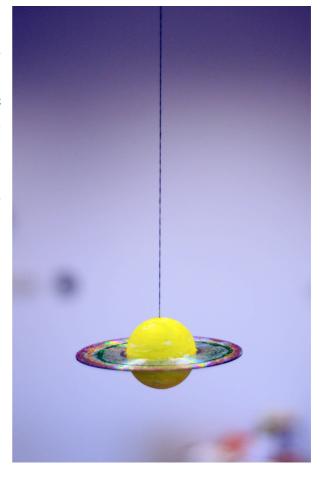




 Decorate your Saturn. Paint the planet itself first and leave it to dry. Then working in pairs, one child turns the CD while the other holds the glue in one spot (exactly the same way as you first drew the middle line.)



 Hang your Super Saturn up and send it spinning. The glitter suspended in the glue is just like the rocks and dust suspended around Saturn. As they spin around the planet they look like solid rings. Beautiful.



UNAWE is an international programme to inspire young underprivileged children with the beauty and scale of the universe. Universe Awareness illustrates the multicultural origins of modern astronomy in an effort to broaden children's minds, awaken their curiosity in science and stimulate global citizenship and tolerance.

Universe Awareness is imagination, excitement and fun in the universe for the very young.

