Build A Model Solar Probe

Discover the Parker Solar Probe and embark on a mission to the Sun!

Materials Needed:

Instrument Shapes printable (or draw your own), toilet paper tube, thin cardboard (from a cereal box or similar packaging), glue, tape, scissors, aluminum foil, crayons.

Instructions:

Prepare your supplies ahead of time. Print and glue the instrument shapes onto thin cardboard to make them sturdier. Cut each shape out.

Set the stage! Explain that you are going to explore the Sun. W } ‰ o v [š š Sun because it is too hot, but we can send a spacecraft called a solar probe! Our solar probe will have tools to tell us about the Sun. Are you ready to build?

Step 1: Color each instrument shape.

Step 2: Tape the solar panels to the straight edges of the protective shield. Tape or glue four of the long thin rectangular probes to the back of the protective shield, one on each corner (see pictures).

Step 3: Tape the protective shield on one edge of the tube. Tape the last long thin rectangle on the other end of the tube.

Step 4: Cover the tube in foil. This protects the electronic instruments from solar radiation.

Step 5: Glue or tape the rest of the instruments around the tube: the small rectangle is a telescope, and the hexagon and circle are instruments to measure the solar wind.

Step 6: Add more features to your solar probe! What do you want to know about the Sun? What mysteries will your probe explore?

Solar Probe Instrument Shapes Printable

UAMN Virtual Early Explorers: Sun