

# Paper Plate Education

## "Serving the Universe on a Paper Plate"



What can you do with a paper plate? Try these activities, then send us *your* great idea. Thanks for sharing.

### Activities



Welcome to a unique genre of education materials. Paper Plate Education is an initiative to reduce complex notions to simple paper plate explanations. This website promotes innovative hands-on [Activities](#) that you can experience across a range of interests, at varying degrees of complexity, and at a low price – all with common paper plates.






### What's New?

Check out the exciting [new material](#) that has been uploaded to this website recently. *Paper Plate Education* evolves as educators contribute to its content. Please pardon the star dust as our universe expands. Here are some recent highlights:

<p><a href="#">Transit of Venus</a></p>		<p>The June 2012 Transit of Venus approaches! Related web pages are at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✘ <a href="#">Transit of Venus Program</a></li> <li>✘ <a href="#">Activity: Transit of Venus Plot</a></li> <li>✘ <a href="#">Activity: Transit of Venus Frequency</a></li> <li>✘ <a href="#">Starman Special by Jay Ryan: "Inferior Conjunctions and Transits of Venus"</a></li> <li>✘ <a href="http://www.transitofvenus.org">www.transitofvenus.org</a> Prepare for the <b>June 2012</b> Transit of Venus</li> </ul>												
<p><a href="#">AstroCamp Video</a></p>		<p>Paper plate activities are prominent in <a href="#">astronomy camp video</a> produced by kids from <a href="#">YMCA AstroCamp</a> to the music of "Shoulders of Giants".</p>												
<p><a href="#">Turtle Hatch</a></p>		<p>In the <i>new</i> <a href="#">Turtle Hatch activity</a> students record on a paper plate the fate of sea turtles hatching in the presence of light pollution. Borrowed from <a href="#">Let There Be Night</a>.</p>												
<p><a href="#">Free Video</a></p>		<p>Activities from the <a href="#">Paper Plate Astronomy videotape/DVD</a> are now available online as <a href="#">free video</a>:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="909 2313 2099 2828"> <tbody> <tr> <td>✘ Introduction</td> <td>✘ Platisphere Tactile</td> </tr> <tr> <td>✘ <a href="#">Sunrise Sunset</a></td> <td>✘ <a href="#">Photographic Plate</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>✘ <a href="#">Satellite Tracking Bowl</a></td> <td>✘ <a href="#">Latitude by Polaris</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>✘ <a href="#">Sub-Solar Cup</a></td> <td>✘ <a href="#">Altitude of the Noon Sun</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>✘ <a href="#">Altitude Measurer</a></td> <td>✘ <a href="#">Moon Finder</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>✘ <a href="#">Platisphere</a></td> <td>✘ <a href="#">Planet Pointer</a></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	✘ Introduction	✘ Platisphere Tactile	✘ <a href="#">Sunrise Sunset</a>	✘ <a href="#">Photographic Plate</a>	✘ <a href="#">Satellite Tracking Bowl</a>	✘ <a href="#">Latitude by Polaris</a>	✘ <a href="#">Sub-Solar Cup</a>	✘ <a href="#">Altitude of the Noon Sun</a>	✘ <a href="#">Altitude Measurer</a>	✘ <a href="#">Moon Finder</a>	✘ <a href="#">Platisphere</a>	✘ <a href="#">Planet Pointer</a>
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✘ [Platisphere for Children](#)

✘ [More paper plate activities](#)

<a href="#">Oreo® Moon Phases</a>		New <a href="#">instruction sheet for Oreo® Moon Phases</a> offers useful tips and template for activity.
<a href="#">AstroCamp</a>		<a href="#">AstroCamp</a> at YMCA Camp Eberhart features paper plate drawings of solar prominences and sunspots, as seen by kids through solar filters and a hydrogen-alpha telescope, plus viewing of planets, constellations, deep sky objects, and daytime targets.
<a href="#">Light Pollution</a>		<a href="#">Light Pollution</a> activity uses a paper plate to demonstrate how easily light pollution can be curbed with simple shielding of a bare bulb. Contributed by 8-yr. old student. Supports the <a href="#">Let There Be Night</a> program.
<a href="#">Globe at Night</a>		Mark Orion's brightest stars on a plate, then fill in the constellation's boundaries with the stars you can see. Compare your plate with the <a href="#">Globe at Night magnitude charts</a> to determine by how much sky glow affects the quality of your night sky.
<a href="#">The Plate as Art</a>		Yes, the artwork in the thumbnail picture at left is made from paper plates. In creating exquisite art, Bradford Hansen-Smith advocates the geometric elegance of the circle at his <a href="#">Wholemovement</a> website.

## [Site Map](#)

A quick visit here will help you find your way around this growing collection of ideas and material. [Site Map](#) outlines the variety of *Paper Plate Education* website components, from A to Y (we strive to eliminate the Zzzz).

## [Background](#)



It seems a good thing comes round. Paper instruments have been used since the 13th Century to support teaching and to buttress arguments. Paper plates are also believed to have inspired a key element of the Mercury space capsule in the late 1950's. In 1992 a member of the Great Lakes Planetarium Association renewed interest in this humble yet useful medium. See our [Background](#) for the history of paper devices and for current Paper Plate Education endeavors.

## [Feedback](#)

Teaching is a unique profession in that it encourages sharing of ideas, modifying other people's material, and adapting to local situations in order to deliver a better product. In fact, you may recognize some of the paper plate [activities](#) as variations on familiar themes. Please advance that spirit of improvement by sending us [feedback](#) about your Paper Plate Education experience.

## [Credits](#)

These pages represent the cumulative work of [many educators](#) who openly avail their work to colleagues. You may freely use the material for non-profit educational purposes. As a courtesy, please credit the author of contributed material. Thank you.

Don't forget to bookmark your favorite pages. Now go fill your plate and enjoy.

"Paper Plate Ed" celebrated IYA2009!



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