

Venus: Our Nearest Neighbor

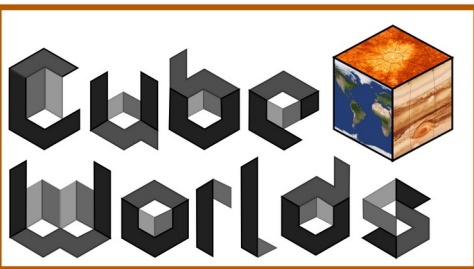
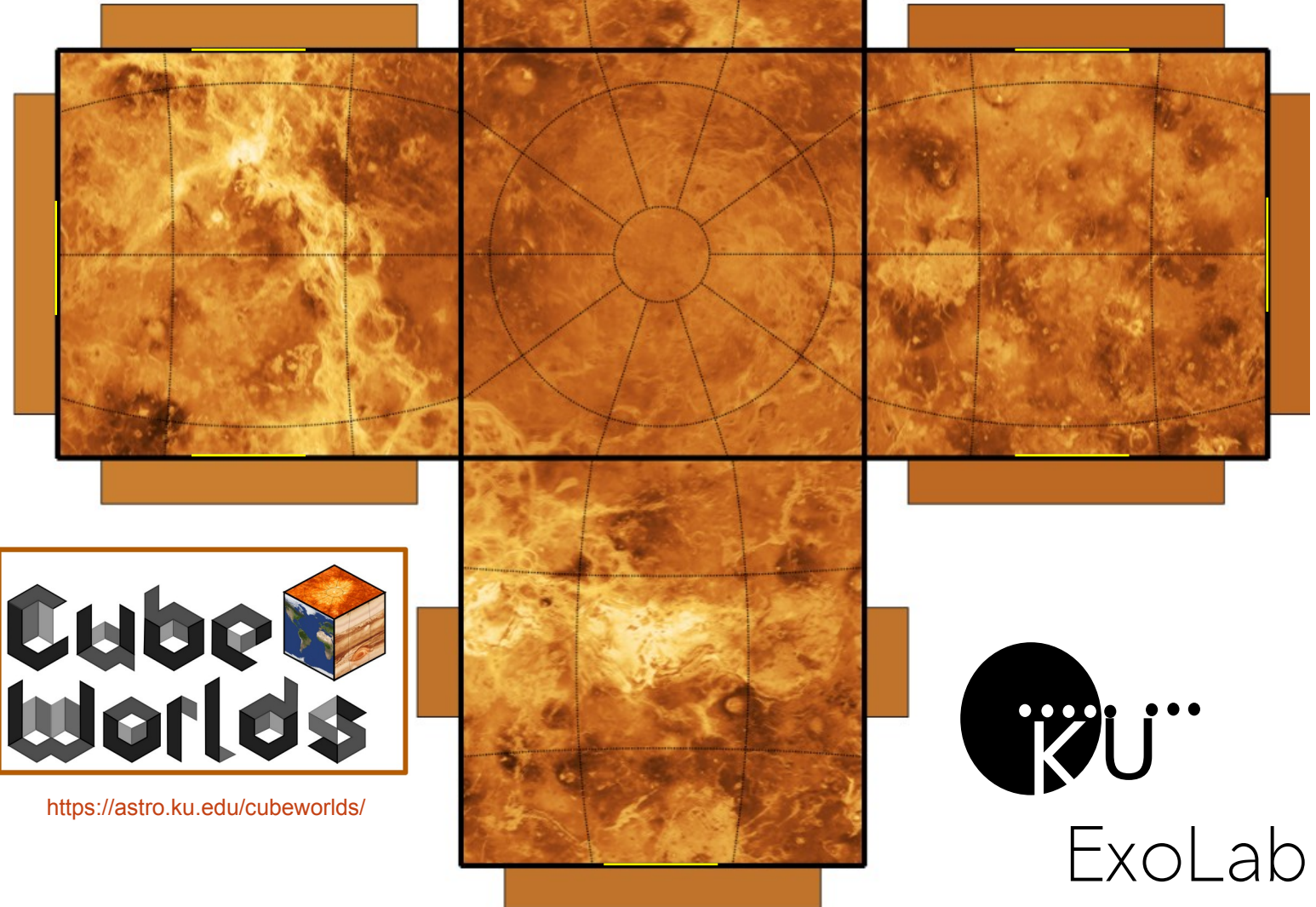
The planet Venus is the next planet in toward our Sun from Earth – and on average, it's the closest planet to Earth. It's also very close to the same size and mass as our own Earth, but beyond that conditions on the surface couldn't be more different. The atmosphere of Venus is one hundred times thicker than Earth's, and temperatures there reach almost 500° C – hot enough to melt lead, and far too hot for any surface water to persist. Venus is especially interesting to scientists because it's both so similar to, and yet so different from, our own Earth.

Learn more about Venus at <https://www.nasa.gov/venus>.

Instructions:

Just cut out the colored region, and make small slits at the yellow lines. Then fold up the sides of the cube, fold down all the tabs, fold along the thin grey lines, and slip the smaller tabs inside the slits. (Even easier: just cut off all the tabs and stick everything together with tape). Voila: your own gas-giant exoplanet!

Of course, real planets are spherical, not cubes – but we think you'll agree that a cube is easier to cut & fold!



<https://astro.ku.edu/cubeworlds/>



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