

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:

- Cut out the big square (outermost black lines).
- Fold along both long diagonals (solid line, colored side out); then unfold.
- Fold the two more-colored sides inward, showing a white triangle with colored tip, narrow rectangle, and 2 squares.
- Repeat 4 times:
 - Fold outer corner up to apex (on long-dashed line).
 - Fold new outermost corner in to center of paper (along dot-dashed line).
 - Fold white tip down to center (along dotted line).
 - Tuck small white triangle into nearby pocket.
- Blow into the opening @ bottom to inflate. You're done!

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

