

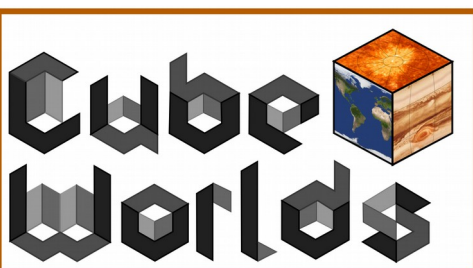
Meet the CMB

This CubeWorld shows not just a single planet or star, but a view of the entire universe. It shows the background temperature of the universe, measured by NASA's WMAP space probe. The universe has an average temperature just a few degrees above absolute zero; shown here are the tiny variations in temperature of less than one-thousandth of a degree in the "CMB," or "Cosmic Microwave Background". These WMAP data helped produce a map of the early universe that greatly improved our knowledge of the origin and structure of the universe.

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). Ta-da—you're done!

Of course, real objects in astronomy are usually spheres, not cubes – but we think you'll agree that a cube is easier to cut & fold!



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

