

Meet the Cosmic Microwave Background!

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 Back-ground". 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:

- Cut out the big square (outermost black lines).
- One at a time, fold along each long diagonal (solid diagonal lines, printed 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!

