

Create a Solar System with Balloon Stamps

Make your own Solar System using balloons and paint!

Materials Needed:

Black construction paper or cardstock, tempera paint, balloons, paper plate, Q-tips, paintbrush or old toothbrush (optional).



Instructions:

Step 1: Blow up several balloons. To represent different sized planets, make some balloons larger and some smaller.

Step 2: Pour different colors of paint on a paper plate. Use a Q-tip to mix the paints together until you get the color(s) you want. Try making the planets look realistic, or use your imagination!

Step 3: Dip a balloon in the paint, then press it down firmly on the black paper. Repeat to make more planets.

Step 4: Add details to your Solar System. You can add features such as cloud and rings to the planets, or make asteroids, comets, and moons. To make a starry background, use a paintbrush or old toothbrush to flick white paint on your paper.

Step 5: Show your Solar System art to your friends and family!



Planet Colors and Textures

Our eyes see the planets of the solar system as brightly as stars in the night sky. Closer up, planets can appear to be different colors. Space images often use “false color” to better study the surfaces of planets, adding color to help us see more details.



Mercury appears a gray color. It is a rocky planet covered in craters.



Venus is also a rocky planet, but it is covered with a thick atmosphere of carbon dioxide and sulfuric acid. From Earth it looks like a star, but closer up, it is a bright yellowish-white.



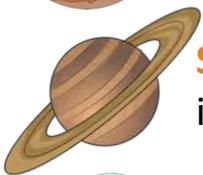
Earth is our home planet. It is uniquely blue and green, the colors of life. The blue is from liquid oceans, and the green comes from plants.



Mars is nicknamed the Red Planet because of rusty iron in the ground. It is a rocky planet, and its surface shows traces of water.



Jupiter is a gas giant. It is covered in swirling clouds and storms, has different colors of reds, orange, yellows, and greens. Its famous Great Red Spot is a storm that has been raging for hundreds of years!



Saturn, like Jupiter, is made of gases (helium and hydrogen). Ammonia ice crystals and clouds are thought to give it different shades of color.



Uranus has methane in its atmosphere, which makes it appear blue. The planet also has rings, but they are faint and hard to see.



Neptune is made of a thick fog of water, ammonia, and methane over a solid core. The methane makes it look blue. It is a very windy planet!

Learn more about planet colors:

www.universetoday.com/33642/the-colors-of-the-planets