

THE PLANET HUNTER: THE STORY BEHIND WHAT HAPPENED TO PLUTO
TOOLS FOR TEACHERS: INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

Mike Brown Is A Real Guy

The subject of the nonfiction book *The Planet Hunter* is a professor of astronomy at Cal Tech, and he's still searching for planets! Check out his website at:

<http://www.gps.caltech.edu/~mbrown/index.html>

Make a Crater

Mike Brown was inspired as young boy to make model moon craters by throwing rocks into mud in his backyard. Your students can have the same experience with a little less of a mess with this activity.

Teacher page at: <http://lunar.arc.nasa.gov/education/activities/active15a.htm>

Student page at: <http://lunar.arc.nasa.gov/education/activities/active15.htm>

Other Cool Solar System Activities

Find Edible Solar System, Paper Bag Space Helmets and more at:

<http://lunar.arc.nasa.gov/education/activities/index.htm#16>

The Real Size of Things

Jupiter and Pluto are such wildly different sizes that it's hard for books, posters, and lunchboxes to show their real relative sizes. So in general, they don't. They fudge things to make Jupiter look smaller than it really is and Pluto much larger than it is.

This website has an amazing outdoor activity called "The Earth is a Peppercorn" that drives home the real relative sizes of planets AND the huge distances between planets:

<http://www.noao.edu/education/peppercorn/pcmain.html>

An easier hallway activity using a roll of toilet paper will help your students understand the relative distances between planets:

<http://www.astrosociety.org/education/family/materials/toiletpaper.pdf>

NASA's Kid's Pages

Games, activities, and space exploration updates:

<http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/home/index.html>

Hubble Space Telescope

What scientists have seen from this orbiting telescope has changed our view of the universe. Check it out!

<http://hubblesite.org/>

Star Gazing

What to look for in the sky tonight:

http://hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/tonights_sky/