

2 Create a galaxy pinwheel

Celebrate World Space Week by making a Pinwheel Galaxy windmill.

What you need

- This template: tinyurl.com/SN-GalaxyWindmill
- Scissors
- Pencil with a rubber on top
- Pipe cleaner
- Paper fasteners (optional)

How does it work?

The Pinwheel Galaxy is a spiral galaxy – like our own galaxy, The Milky Way – and is around 25 million light years from Earth in the constellation Ursa Major. A light year is the distance light travels in one Earth year. The Pinwheel Galaxy is known for its bright blue arms, which are star-forming “factories”, where clouds of dust and gas are collapsing to create baby stars. The arms resemble a spinning pinwheel, which gives the galaxy its name. There are thought to be an estimated one trillion stars in the Pinwheel Galaxy. Unlike other spiral galaxies, telescopes have not found a black hole at its centre.

WOW!

There are at least 100 billion galaxies in the observable universe.



1 Go to the URL above and print the template. Cut it out, and then snip two thirds of the way down each line.



2 Carefully punch a hole through all of the white circles with a pencil. You could also use a single hole punch if you have one.



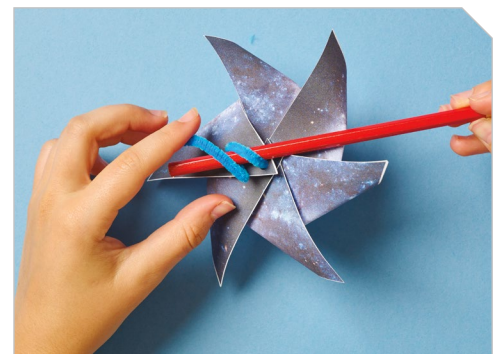
3 Thread the pipe cleaner through the central hole. Flip the galaxy pinwheel over so that you are looking at the back side of it.



4 Fold each flap backwards, threading the pipe cleaner through the hole to make a pinwheel vane. Proceed in order, until all six vanes are made.



5 Push a paper fastener through the central hole and remove the pipe cleaner. Ask an adult to push the sharp end into a pencil rubber.



6 If you haven't got any paper fasteners, wrap the end of the pipe cleaner several times around the pencil to hold it in place.