

TOP TIP
Use a bowl or a bucket to hold your balloon in place when you are gluing on strips of newspaper.

Make a model Earth

Experience the mysterious "overview effect" without leaving the planet.

What you need

- Balloon
- Newspaper, torn into long strips
- PVA glue
- Water
- Paint brush
- Strips of white paper
- An atlas or world map
- Pencil
- Blue paint (for the oceans)
- Coloured paint (for Earth's landmasses)

How does it work?

On seeing Earth from space for the first time, astronauts report feeling a powerful and peculiar feeling. Looking down from orbit, they get an overwhelming sense of awe and wonder at the beauty and fragility of our home planet. This phenomenon is called the "overview effect". Experience this sensation without blasting off into space, by imagining you are floating in space and looking down on your model Earth from above.



Find out more about the overview effect at funkidslive.com/podcast/mysteries



1 Blow up your balloon, but not too much, so that it's ball-shaped. Tie off the neck. Make a mixture of one part glue with two parts water.



2 Glue newspaper to the balloon using a paint brush until there's a thick layer. Cover with white strips of paper and leave it to dry completely.



3 Next, carefully trace the Earth's continents onto the surface of your planet, using an atlas or a map of the world as a guide.



4 Paint your model and leave it to dry. Make a small hole, pop the balloon and remove it. Send your pictures to hello@science-nature.co.uk