

Build A Model Solar Probe

Discover the Parker Solar Probe and embark on a mission to the Sun!

Why can't we go to the Sun? Because it's too hot, but we can send a space craft called a solar probe! Our solar probe will have tools to tell us about the Sun. Are you ready to build?

Materials Needed:

Instrument Shapes printable (or draw your own), toilet paper tube, thin cardboard (from a cereal box or similar packaging), glue, tape, scissors, aluminum foil, crayons.

Instructions:

Step 1: Color each instrument shape. Glue them to thin cardboard to make them sturdy, then cut each one out.

Step 2: Tape the solar panels to the straight edges of the protective shield. Tape or glue four of the long thin rectangular probes to the back of the protective shield, one on each corner (see pictures).

Step 3: Tape the protective shield on one edge of the tube. Tape the last long thin rectangle on the other end of the tube.

Step 4: Cover the tube in foil. This protects the electronic instruments from solar radiation.

Step 5: Glue or tape the rest of the instruments around the tube: the small rectangle is a telescope, and the hexagon and circle are instruments to measure the solar wind.

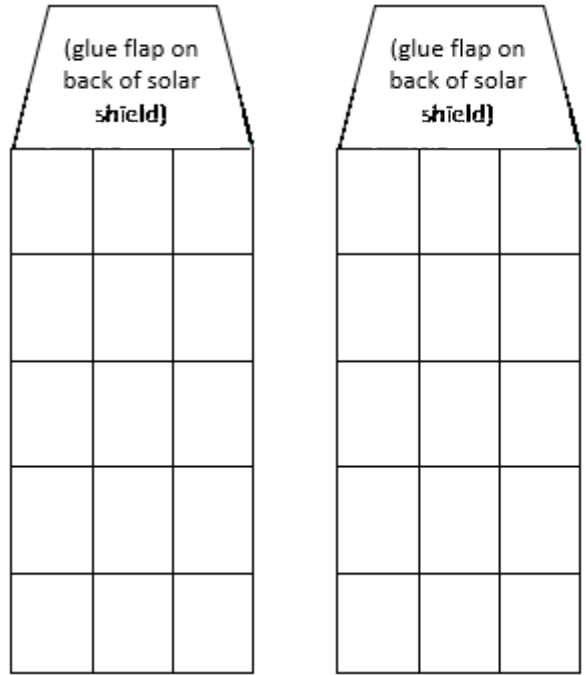
Step 6: Add more features to your solar probe! What do you wonder about the Sun? What mysteries will your probe explore?

Solar Probe Instrument Shapes Printable

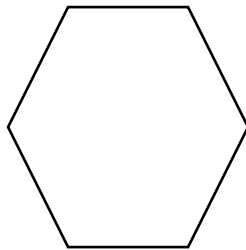
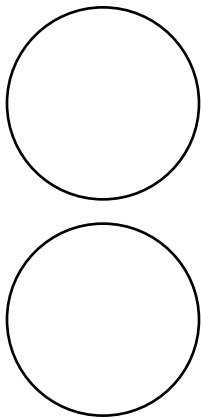
These shapes represent just a few of the features and instruments on the Parker Solar Probe.

The protective shield protects the spacecraft from the heat of the Sun.

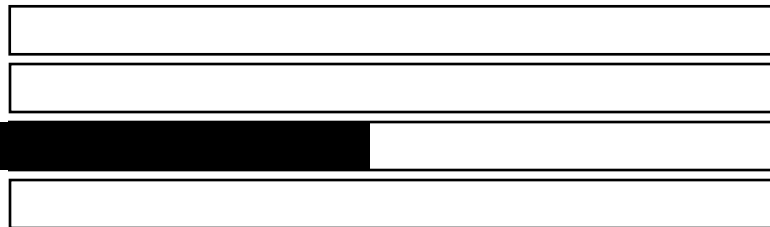
Solar panels absorb the Sun's energy to power the spacecraft.



The SWEAP instruments measure the solar wind. The ISOIS instrument measures solar energy.



The WISPR telescopes take pictures.



The FIELDS probes measure magnetic and electric energy.