

Edible or Non-Edible Venus

Venus is the second planet from the Sun and has the hottest surface conditions of any planet in the solar system. Its interior is believed to be similar to Earth – it has a core, mantle and crust - and it's covered by an extremely dense atmosphere made up mainly of carbon dioxide. Thanks to some space missions, we've discovered that Venus' surface has a few craters and over 1,600 major volcanos, mountains, large highland terrains and vast lava plains. Surface temperatures on Venus reach 900 degrees Fahrenheit! That's hot! That atmospheric pressure is 90 times that of Earth's and it's completely covered in sulfuric acid clouds.

In this activity, you and your child will create Venus and its atmosphere using either edible or non-edible items.

What You Need for the Edible Venus:

- ✂ 1 plate
- ✂ 1 Rice Krispie Treat (Venus' mantle/crust)
- ✂ 1 piece of saltwater Taffy (Venus' core)
- ✂ 1 cup of Cotton Candy (Venus' atmosphere)
- ✂ 5-10 mini chocolate chips (Venus' volcanos)
- ✂ Icing
- ✂ Popsicle stick
- ✂ Wet wipes



What You Need for the Non-Edible Venus:

- ✂ 1 Styrofoam ball
- ✂ Various craft items
- ✂ Cotton batting
- ✂ Glue and tape
- ✂ Scissors

What to Do for the Edible Venus:

- ✂ Flatten your Rice Krispie Treat on your plate.
- ✂ Place a piece of taffy in the center of the Rice Krispie—this is Venus' core.
- ✂ Form a ball with the Rice Krispie Treat—this is Venus' mantle and crust. Ask you child which part of the ball is the core.
- ✂ Using the icing, attach a few mini chocolate chips to the ball. Talk about the volcanos on Venus with your child.
- ✂ Cover the Rice Krispie Treat with cotton candy. Is Venus' atmosphere thick or thin? Can we see through the clouds?
- ✂ Wash up your hands and talk about Venus as you eat it up!

What to Do for the Non-Edible Venus:

- ✘ Using the Styrofoam ball as the planet, attach some of the craft items on the table to the ball to represent volcanos
- ✘ Cover the planet in cotton batting and tape or staple together
- ✘ Discuss Venus' composition and surface features

Parent Prompts:

What is Venus made up of? (Core, mantle, crust)

What is Venus' atmosphere made up mostly of? (Carbon Dioxide)

What are some surface features of Venus? (It has volcanos, some craters, valleys, plains, and mountains)