



Seeds

Title	ASTROLABE
Description	<p>Created and used by Greek and Arab astronomers, the astrolabe quickly spread to the whole Mediterranean basin, where it has been widely in use at least until the XVII century. The astrolabe is an instrument that shows the vault of heaven that should be visible to the naked eye in every single moment, every day of the year; it can show also those sections of the vault we are now no longer able to see because of light pollution.</p> <p>Light pollution, in fact, a reality nowadays in all our cities, apart from representing a pointless waste of energy, undoubtedly affects the environment. Moreover, the increased brightness of the sky at night prevents us from seeing the stars and all the other heavenly bodies.</p> <p>This is the reason for this project: http://www.globeatnight.org/</p> <p>A project by Citizen Science that enables everybody to give their contribution by describing the state of our polluted vault, uploading, night after night, their observation of the visible stars of a particular constellation that had been indicated by the research group. In 2014 more than 4600 people have contributed to this monitoring project.</p>
Materials and Time needed	<p>How to create an astrolabe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Astrolabe Card (see “Materials” Section of the Manual)• scissors• sticky tape <p>To use it for a field study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a torch, at night• a compass for orientation
Instructions	<p>Print the Astrolabe Card from the “Materials” Section.</p> <p>Cut out the circle depicting stars and constellations. You will notice that, all along the edge, the disk has been divided into twelve segments representing the months of the year; every month has then been divided into nicks representing each day.</p> <p>With the help of scissors carve out all the white spots from the mask.</p> <p>Fold up the mask along the line separating the black area from the grey one, so as to form a kind of pocket where you will insert the wheel of the constellations.</p> <p>The part of the disk with months and days will stick out of the scale of the hours drawn upon the mask.</p> <p>After deciding the exact day and time you are going to do your astronomical observation, you will have to rotate the disk so as to position the day exactly on the selected time you will find on the mask. The section of the heaven vault you will be able to see through the observation window will be the real vault that very</p>

day at the prearranged hour.

Here follows a list of websites for in-depth study:

<http://www.cielobuio.org/>

<http://inquinamentoluminoso.uai.it/>

<http://www.darksky.org/>

In-depth study