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Professor Astro Cat's Intergalactic Activity Book



Synopsis

Looking at the stars, do you dream of new worlds beyond our own? Would you like to explore distant planets, fly a rocket or try some chocolate quantum physics? Good news, Professor Astro Cat is here to help! Packed with amazing experiments, thrilling facts and create-your-own adventures, his Astronaut Space Camp offers a universe of excitement, and is bursting with ideas for a future at the frontiers of space! Ben Newman is an award-winning illustrator. He is a long-standing contributor to Nobrow and the author of two books, *The Bento Bestiary* and *Ouroboros* under the same imprint.

Book Information

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Age Range: 7 - 11 years

Grade Level: 1 - 6

Customer Reviews

There's plenty here to keep a young space enthusiast occupied: a page on Morse code for sending secret messages, quiz pages on matching images, a log page for recording Moon phases over a month, an experiment to collect 'space dust,' instructions for building a balloon rocket, and much more. In fact, there are probably enough activities jammed in this book to keep a kid occupied for a span equivalent to several space missions. American Scientist I love a book with pencil puzzles and space to write your own story, and the very cool "Professor Astro Cat's Intergalactic Activity Book" by Zelda Turner and illustrator Ben Newman is a pleasure to look at and to hold; not to mention filled with interesting facts and intriguing activities. The

Baltimore Sun This is a book that can keep your curious little ones entertained and learning for hours. #151; Book Nerd Mommy

Looking at the stars, do you dream of new worlds beyond our own? Would you like to explore distant planets, fly a rocket or try some chocolate physics? Good news, Professor Astro Cat is here to help! Packed with amazing experiments, thrilling facts and create-your-own adventures, his Intergalactic Activity Book offers a universe of excitement, and is bursting with ideas for a future at the frontiers of space!

Professor Astro Cat's Intergalactic Activity Book is a wonderful exposition and workbook for children interested in space exploration. The book, nine by eleven inches and eighty six pages, is filled with color illustrations and workpages to be used by the future space astronaut. The theme is carried forward by Professor Astro Cat, who is often accompanied by an orange female cat friend, a mouse friend and other animals. The story is divided into sections, which contain subject matter on astronaut training, space science, astronomy, and the space mission itself. All of the illustrations are block colored, with large clear text. Many interesting activities are presented. Among my favorites is a zero-gravity space treadmill in the training section. The aspiring astronauts are given space to design their own space workout machine. In the astronomy section, there are descriptions of star formation, our solar system, and black holes. The mouse is shown being drawn into a black hole, but no problem, he reappears a few pages later. The science section includes an experiment that the young astronauts can do with a chocolate bar and a microwave oven to determine the speed of light. I have not tried it, but I think that it should work, although if you overcook the chocolate bar, there may be some cleanup required. Adult supervision is a good idea for this project. If Ole Romer had a microwave oven and a chocolate bar, he could have produced a more accurate measure for the light speed using this very simple method. The science section also has an experiment using beans to grow your own food in space. I did this once for a school project, without thinking about a space mission. I do grow potatoes now, not unlike the potato farm, which plays such an important role in the movie, *The Martian*. Altogether, I think that this book is well organized and presented. It should be fun for children who are space or science oriented,

From the time your child opens Professor Astro Cat's Intergalactic Activity Book and finds a box containing spaces to personalize this volume through the final Part Four, they can learn about the universe but can also create their own vision of outer

space. Written and edited by Zelda Turner and illustrated by Ben Newman, sections contain between eight and eleven activities for your child to complete. Part One - "Cadet Training" - introduces the child to information about outer space and activities related to prelaunch learning. Each of these is contained on two facing pages. Subsequent parts include "Watching the Skies", "Rocket Science" and "Space Missions". Each of these subsequent parts is arranged similar to "Cadet Training". Activities may be something the child is to draw or create, some require them to attempt a task, or information they can memorize. Boxes containing either "Space Facts" or a "Tip" are given for several of these activities. Examples of some activities included in the book are as follows: designing a workout machine to use in space, using a word bank to figure out what Russian cosmonauts are saying, signaling using Morse Code, designing a robot, matching descriptions to the correct planet, making a star gazer, inventing a new constellation, planning a time capsule, building a balloon rocket, a blind taste test, keeping a space diary, and communicating using a code. Materials needed to perform the activities may be found in most homes. For those requiring adult assistance, directions are given for the adult as well as for the young "astronaut". Zelda Turner's text is not difficult, nor will it overwhelm a child with too much information. I found that the instructions for activities are clear and simple to understand. Ben Newman's cartoon-style illustrations are colorful and add to the overall quality of "Professor Astro Cat's Intergalactic Activity Book". While most appear "flat" having little shading or dimension, they have a feeling of joy and fun making them an important contribution to the book. Targeted at readers between ages 7 to 11 years, the book is appropriate for slightly younger children who are more advanced readers and interested in outer space. I loved the combination of educational material, imaginative activities, and focus on science and outer space of "Professor Astro Cat's Intergalactic Activity Book". My seven-year old grandson was fascinated by the information and wanted me to find another book "just like this one". Definitely a 5-star book, and one that I will be recommending to others.

My 7-year-old 2nd grader found plenty to enjoy in this activity book. While there are some instructions for projects that need extra supplies, space, and/or adult assistance, I ordered it primarily for times that he needs to entertain himself quietly in a seat, and a fair portion of the book

works well for that. It's space-themed, and does contain some true facts about space and space missions, but I'd still consider this primarily entertainment that engages your mind vs academic. Some of it's creative: what would you send in a time capsule going into space? What kind of robot would you design to help you on a space mission? Other activities include space trivia quizzes, learning Morse code, the NATO phonetic alphabet (alpha, bravo, charlie,) and Russian phrases, and identifying the planets in our solar system. A child wouldn't have to love space to enjoy this book, but it might help. The suggested age range of 7-11 seems accurate to me, but they'll definitely need to read fairly well to use it without help. The illustrations are fun and it's packed with a wide variety of activities. It gets a thumbs-up from mother and son at our house.

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