

1989

## Science Notes - How to Build Classroom Planetariums

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## **Census Education Project Developed by Department of Commerce**

The United States Department of Commerce (through the Bureau of the Census) has been distributing materials for the "1990 Census Education Project."

Part of a promotion and outreach program designed to make the upcoming census as complete a count of state and national populations as possible, the project provides educators with innovative materials designed to help the educators, students and their families become involved in the 1990 census. The materials are available in a Census Education Project kit and include 10 instructional activities (including professionally prepared worksheets, procedural notes, background information, glossary and samples of census data) with materials in English and Spanish. Much of the material included may be used in connection with units on gathering population data and data analysis.

The project developers suggest that the units be used during the last two weeks of March 1990 (the time when nationwide publicity regarding the census will be reaching its peak). Following Census Day (April 1, 1990), the Bureau of the Census will conduct an evaluation of the 1990 Census Education Project by surveying a sample of superintendents, principals and curriculum administrators.

For more information on the 1990 Census Education Project, contact the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.

--S.A.A.

## **How to Build Classroom Planetariums**

"How to Build Classroom Planetariums" contains step-by-step directions for building inexpensive classroom planetarium domes (1.5-meter, 1.8-meter and 2.8-meter) from recycled corrugated cardboard. The construction activity is appropriate for students in grades 3 to 12 or for science fair projects. Starmaps and plans for making a coffee can projector are included. To obtain a free copy of the publication, send a forty-five cent stamped, self-addressed number 10 (business size) envelope to Lou Finsand, *Iowa Science Teachers Journal*, Price Laboratory School, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-3593.

--C.W.B.