CloudSat

Scan the sky and you’ll likely see clouds. Those white, fluffy things do more than just look pretty – they warm and cool Earth and bring us rain and snow.

If scientists had better measurements of clouds, they would be better at predicting our weather. Ball Aerospace designed and built a spacecraft called CloudSat that is helping weather scientists. CloudSat (short for “cloud satellite”) is orbiting Earth and gathering cloud data with its super-sensitive radar. CloudSat launched into space in 2006.

For more information, visit Ball Aerospace’s web site: www.ballaerospace.com

Build Your Own CloudSat Model (1/20 scale)

1. Look over the pattern to get an idea of what you will be doing. Notice there are dotted lines and solid lines.
2. Score all the dotted lines to make them easier to fold. To score, use a ball-point pen or sewing needle and ruler. Line up the ruler along a dotted line, and then firmly draw along the ruler.
3. Cut out the big pattern along the solid lines using scissors.
4. Punch a hole at the red circles in Panels A and B.
5. Fold down the flaps that say “fold down and glue here.”
6. Fold the model along the dotted lines to create a cube.
7. Glue or tape the flaps from Step 5 to close the cube.
8. Cut out the solar arrays.
9. Insert a new #2 pencil or a pencil-sized dowel through the holes you made in Step 4.
10. Glue or tape the solar arrays to the pencil (see the CloudSat picture).

Materials
- Ball-point pen or large sewing needle
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Single-hole punch
- White glue, glue stick or clear tape
- New #2 pencil or pencil-sized dowel

CloudSat in orbit around Earth

© Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. 2006. All rights reserved.