



DR NIC BONNE

BLIND ASTRONOMER
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND
OUTREACH FELLOW/TACTILE
UNIVERSE PROJECT LEAD

UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH

WATCH

<https://youtu.be/dyroMSURIJO>

ABOUT NIC

HIS JOURNEY INTO STEM

Nic became interested in astronomy at a very early age. Where he grew up, in Australia, it was very easy to find a really dark night sky and he spent time with his parents working out everything he could see in the sky. Through observing that environment and through watching documentaries and about astronomy and space exploration, Nic felt he could experience the wonder of the universe and start asking the questions that would inspired him onto his career path.

HIS JOB

Nic is the Outreach and Public Engagement Fellow at the University of Portsmouth Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation. As a blind Astronomer, he is passionate about making astronomy accessible to all and leads the Tactile Universe Project which is developing free multi-sensory resources to help blind and vision impaired people engage with current topics in astronomy. He also helps others, both nationally and internationally, find ways to communicate science in more accessible ways.

He has a research background in galaxy evolution and galaxy formation.

HIS HOBBIES

Nic enjoys music and plays the bass guitar and the drums - it's a great way to relax after a working day! He also goes on a nice long walk with his guide dog Austin every day, which has kept both of them happy during lockdown.

THE QUESTION NIC WANTS TO ANSWER IS...

How can we make the area of astronomy more accessible to more people?

Astronomy is often understood as being a very visual subject, but advances in technology such as haptics (the science and technology of transmitting and understanding information through touch), virtual reality, 3D printing etc. mean that there are more and more ways in which everyone can experience astronomy, for example through touch and sound.

NIC INSPIRES YOU TO THINK ABOUT...

What multi-sensory techniques (e.g. touch, hearing) for communicating ideas can we use to experience topics in astronomy?

DR NIC BONNE

Nic's astronomy research background is in galaxy evolution and galaxy formation. He was inspired by looking up at the night sky and experiencing the wonder of the universe.



Use Question Hands to generate questions about the stars and galaxies

www.greatscienceshare.org/question-makers



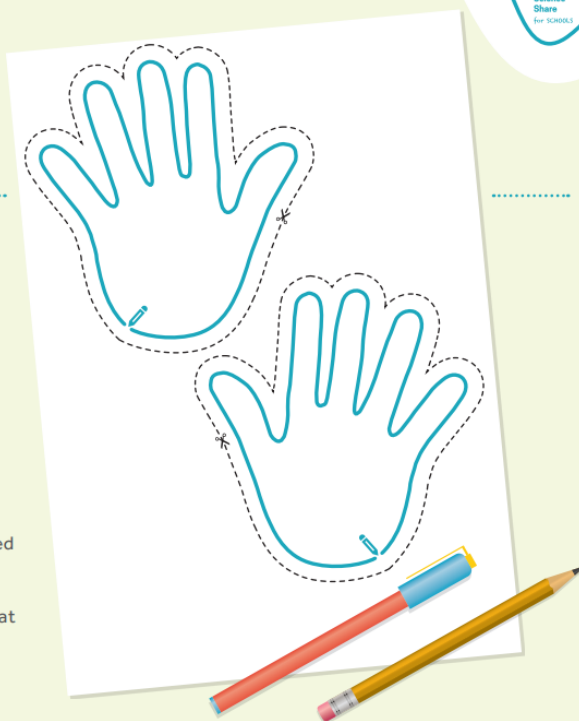
Question Hand

What you need?

A piece of paper, pen/pencil.

How does it work?

- 1 Draw around both your hands on a piece of paper and cut them out.
- 2 Write one of these phrases on each finger of one hand:
What if...
Where does...
Who can...
How does...
Is there...
- 3 On each finger of the other hand write a word that is linked to the science theme. Think about what you're curious to find out about.
- 4 Bring your hands together and create 2 new questions that you want to ask by linking the words on two fingers!
- 5 Write your questions in the palm of each hand and share with someone else.



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