

GALEX (Galaxy Evolution Explorer)



The Galaxy Evolution Explorer (GALEX) is a NASA Small Explorer Mission launched April 28, 2003. GALEX is will performing the first Space Ultraviolet sky survey to measure the history of star formation in the universe.

In addition to paving the way for future ultraviolet missions, the space telescope allowed astronomers to uncover mysteries about the early universe and how it evolved, as well as better characterize phenomena like black holes and dark matter. The mission was extended three times over a period of 10 years before it was decommissioned in June 2013. GALEX was launched on April 28, 2003 from a Pegasus launch vehicle.

The first observation was dedicated to the crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia, and was images in the constellation of Hercules taken on 21 May 2003. This region was selected because it had been directly overhead the shuttle at the time of its last contact with the NASA Mission Control Center, Houston, Texas.

The telescope made observations in ultraviolet wavelengths to measure the history of star formation in the universe 80% of the way back to the Big Bang. Since scientists have evidence that the Universe to be about 13.8 billion years old, the mission studied galaxies and stars across about 10 billion years of cosmic history.

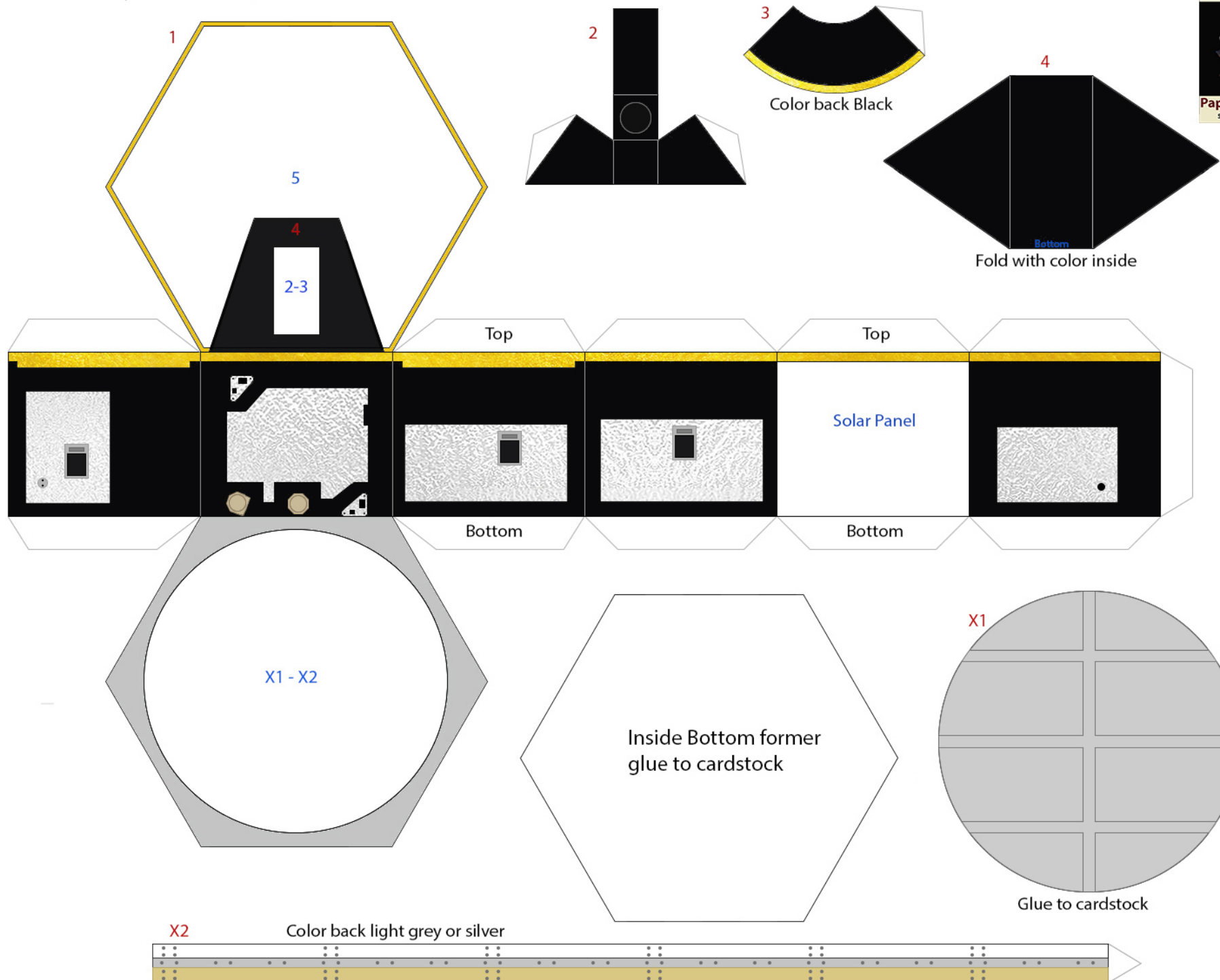
A NASA space telescope that has dazzled astronomers with spectacular images of distant galaxies for the past decade, and set an asset management precedent back on Earth, was finally turned off on June 28, 2013.

Galaxy Evolution Explorer has completed its mission. During its decade of service, the telescope studied galaxies, with the distances of space providing a kind of time-travel. Even at the speed of light, the images of some of the structures GALEX captured are billions of years old. The telescope provided views of a black hole swallowing a star. It also aided in confirming the nature of dark energy.

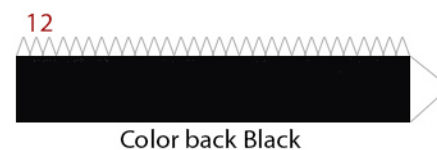
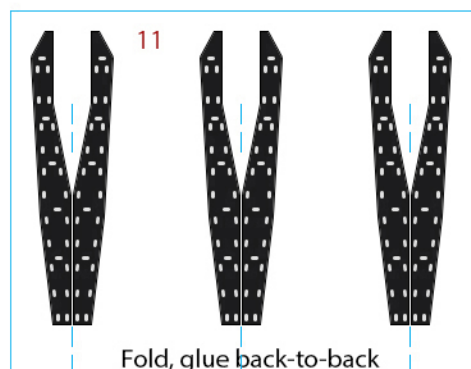
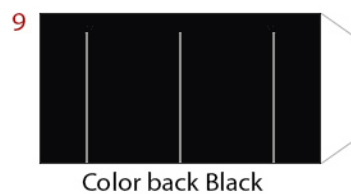
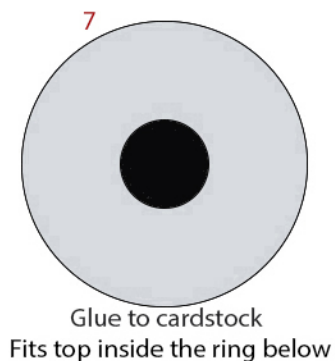
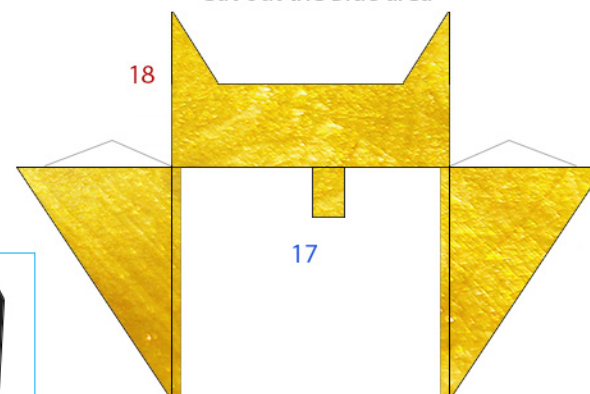
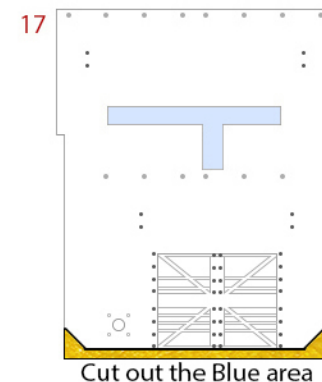
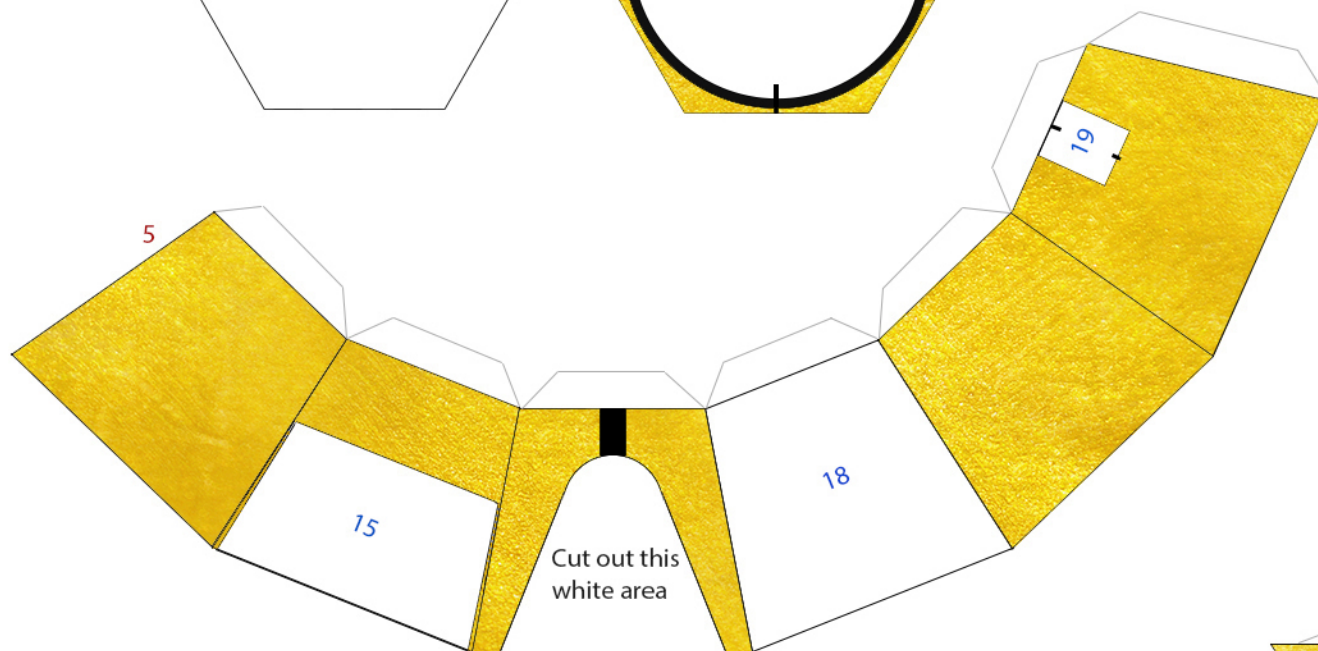
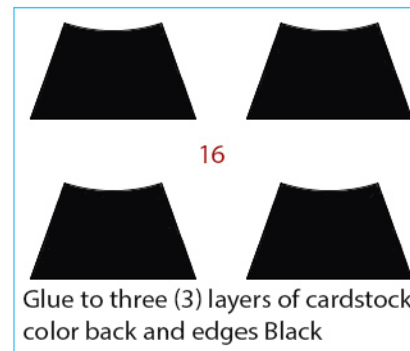
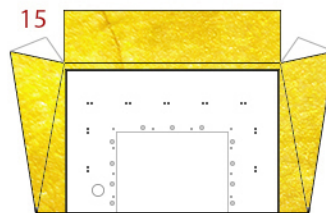
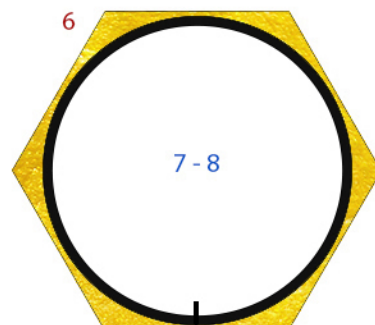
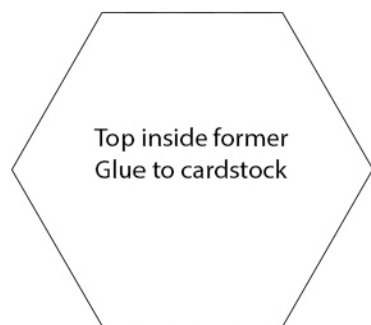
The spacecraft will remain in orbit for at least 65 years, then fall to Earth and burn up upon re-entering the atmosphere.



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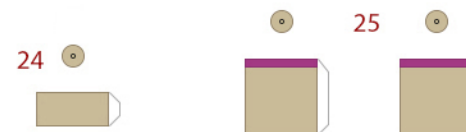
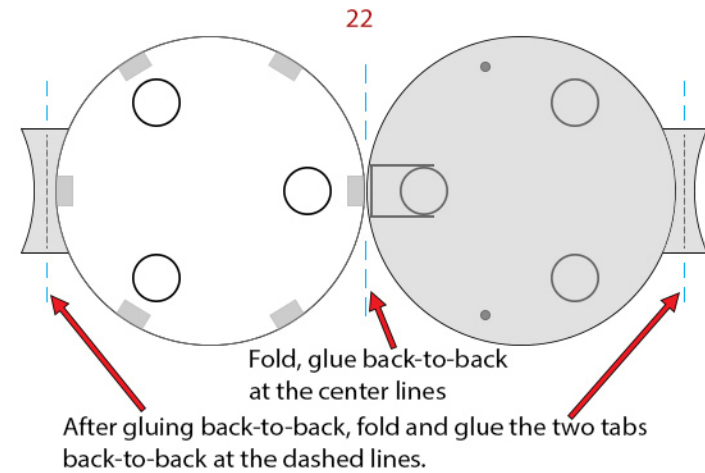
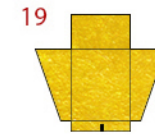
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Roll to a tube with color inside



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