



MEET OUR NEIGHBOURS!

A TACTILE EXPERIENCE

Lina Canas
NUCLIO – Núcleo Interativo de Astronomia
Email: lina.canas@nuclio.pt



TACTILE ASTRONOMY

Planetarium shows

Through the use of a tactile semi sphere the audience can follow the main narration and what is being projected on the dome.



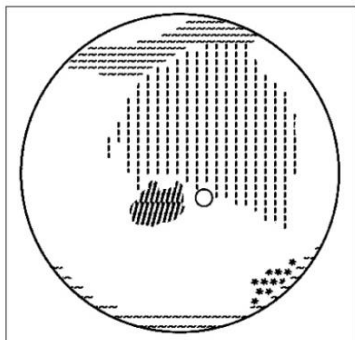
TACTILE ASTRONOMY



Tactile Exhibitions

Through braille captions and schematic tactile images in high relief, the visitor can explore the different features present in the displayed images.

Braille text: "The Sun is a star, like all the others in the universe. It is a giant ball of gas, mostly hydrogen and helium, that is held together by its own gravity. It is the source of light and heat for the solar system." [3]



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[2]



Although initially distributed for free, these materials have high costs of production, unaffordable for most communities.

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THE PROJECT

13 tactile schematic images of the main objects of the Solar System

Built with low cost materials through hands-on activities

For visually impaired children and their non-visually impaired peers

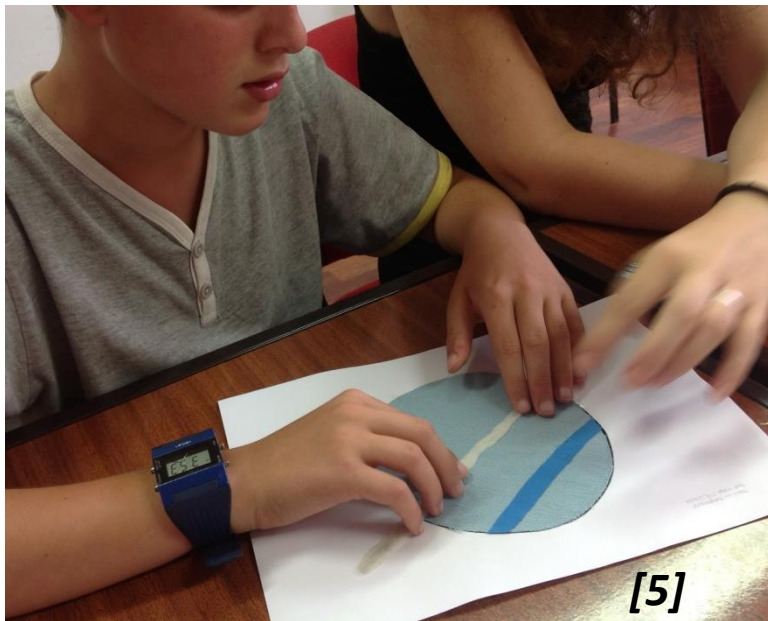
Promote interaction between all children



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HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Visually impaired children and their sighted peers are encouraged to explore the tactile images and research our celestial neighbours and their main characteristics.



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BUILDING THE IMAGES



They explore their favorite object and try to understand which textures they'll need to build them.

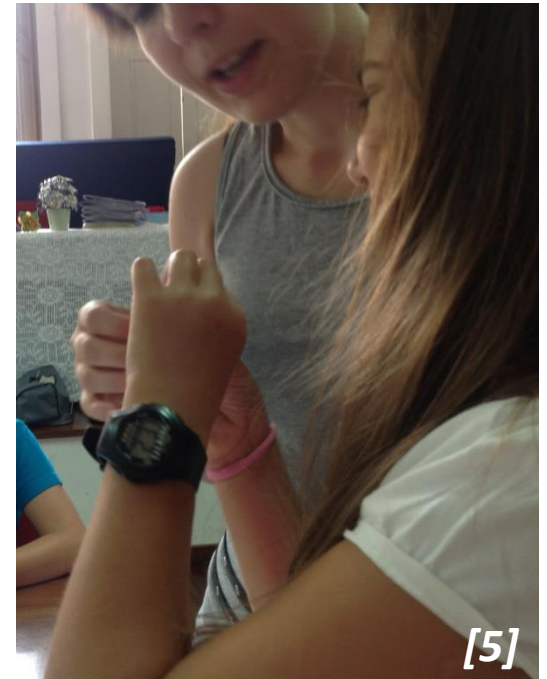
The children choose from the tactile images explored their favorite object and then built them with the help of the educators.



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BUILDING THE IMAGES

The children then choose from different materials available to build their favorite celestial object.



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The children explain the main features of the celestial object, guiding their friends through the different tactile features present.

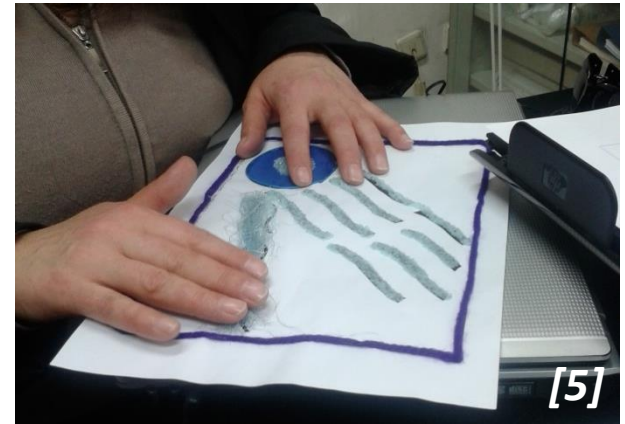
COMMUNICATION SKILLS

The different groups of children present, explain and explore with their peers the tactile images they built. The images can also be presented to other members of the community

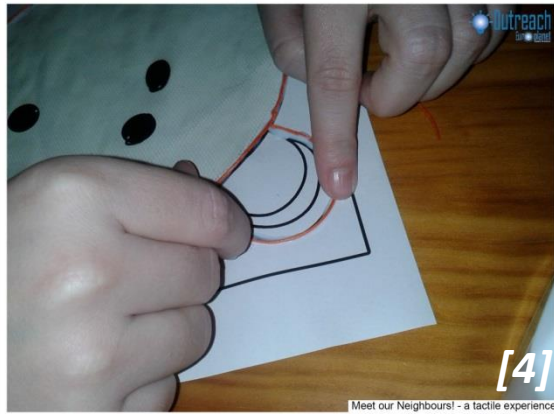
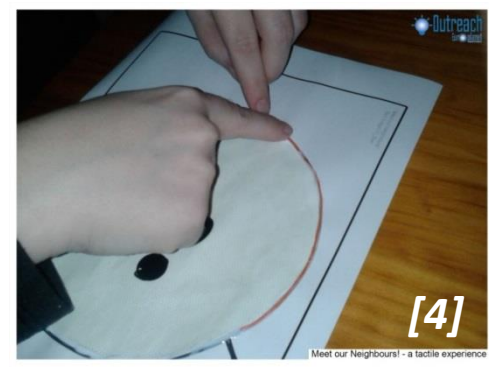
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QUALITY OF THE MATERIALS

All materials produced are currently being tested by tactile resource technicians and special needs educators to ascertain and improve the overall quality of the project's resources.



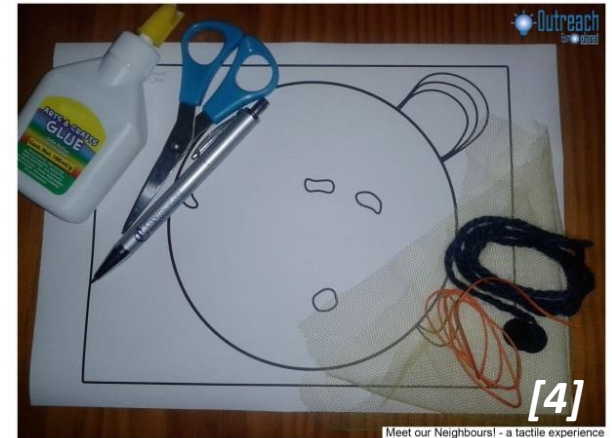
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TESTING PHASE

All textures and materials were sent to educators around the world so they could provide their input on all resources produced.

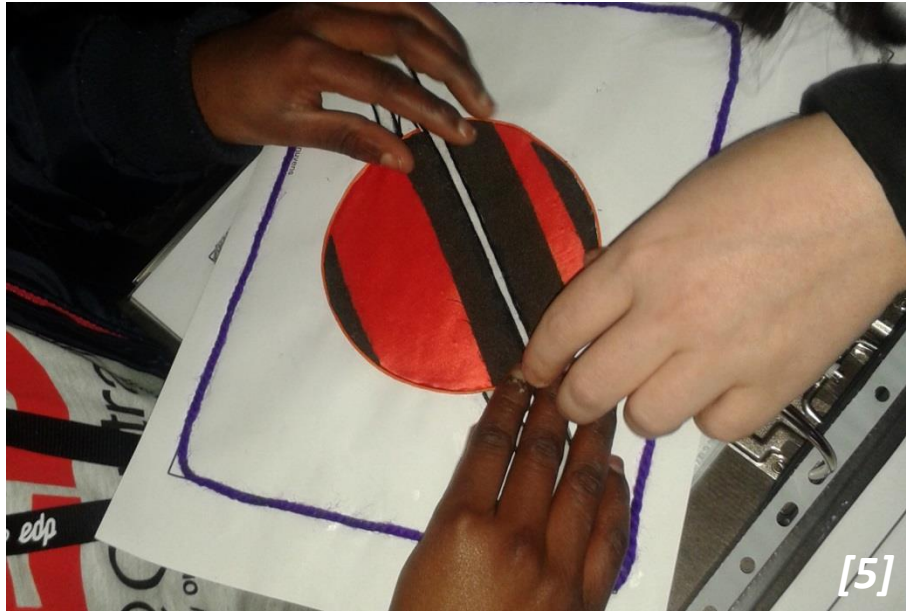
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SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT

For each celestial object texts were produced with the help from planetary scientists. These texts provide valuable support for educators in the scientific exploration of each image.

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SUSTAINABILITY

Using recycled materials and other low cost textures native from the different communities around the globe.

All resources produced will be available for free on the project's website.

Official website:

<http://nuclio.org/astroneighbours/>



Image Credit:

- [1] Amelia Ortiz-Gil, Astronomical Observatory of Valencia, Spain.
 - [2] Navegar Foundation, Espinho, Portugal.
 - [3] Noreen Grice, United States .
 - [4] ACAPO, Porto and NUCLIO, Lisbon, Portugal.
 - [5] NUCLIO, Lisbon, Portugal.
 - [6] Breezy Ocaña Flaquer, Dominican Republic.
 - [7] Kevin Govender, OAD, South Africa.
 - [8] Renata Rydvalová, Czech Republic.
 - [9] Albhashy Lejkabre, Dominican Republic.
 - [10] Katarzyna Kowalska, Poland.
 - [11] Régis Courtin, France.
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THANK YOU!

Lina Canas
NUCLIO – Núcleo Interativo de Astronomia
Email: lina.canas@nuclio.pt