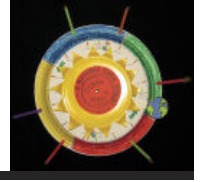


Paper Plate Birthday Cake Clock



Get Ready!

Suggested for parent & child teams, or individuals 2nd grade and up

Supplies:

- 1 Chinette large paper dinner plate each
- 1 small yellow cake plate each
- 1 bendable colored plastic straw each
- 1 gold or yellow pipe cleaner each
- 1 brad with long tabs, each

Downloads:

Download the following from www.debrafrasier.com (Click on *A Birthday Cake Is No Ordinary Cake*, scroll to projects)

Clock Face: print one each on 8 1/2 x 11 in. white paper

Center Name Circle: prints 4 per sheet, each person needs 1 circle, copy onto red paper

Clock "Hand" with Earth: prints 6 per sheet, each person needs 1, copy onto white CARDSTOCK

Tools:

- scissors for each or to share
- markers or crayons
- 1 or 2 hole punches
- glue sticks to share
- 1 or 2 black marker for names
- 1 or 2 rolls clear packing tape
- surface to color on (table, cardboard, old catalogs) for each participant

Optional extras: star wire, (cut to diameter of plate), stapler, alternative clock hands (drilled plastic spoons or tongue depressors are great), plastic flowers, wire butterflies, stick on stars, artificial flowers, leaves or petals, anything decorative for outside rim, though nothing additional is necessary.

Prep:

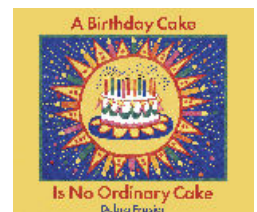
Punch center hole in large and small paper plates (How to find the center? Trace bottom of plate onto tissue paper. Cut. Fold in quarters. Crossing point is center. Overlay on plate, mark.) An awl or scissor point works nicely.

Copy Clock Face, Center Name, and Clock Hand

Cut out the above if younger children present

Cut straws to three inches below the plastic bend

An activity to accompany ***A Birthday Cake Is No Ordinary Cake***,
written and illustrated by Debra Frasier, Harcourt 2006
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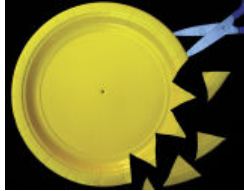
Paper Plate Birthday Cake Clock



Directions



1. Fill out name and birthday on small red round clock face.
2. Cut "pizza slices" off edge of yellow plate to make Sun.
3. Color white clock faces. Start with four globes and the markers for the Solstice and the Equinoxes. Explain the meaning of these seasonal markers. (See below.) Color the candles.
4. Glue clock faces to back of large Chinette Dinner Plate
5. Draw a line across the plate edge at each Solstice and Equinox, dividing the plate lip into four seasonal sections.
6. Color each seasonal section a different color, or stripe in different colors.
7. Cut out clock hand. Color Earth.

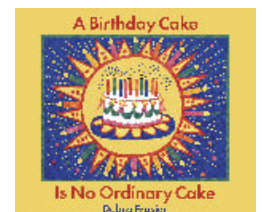


8. Stack all parts on top of clock face with the clock hand on the bottom, then Yellow Sun plate, Red small clock face with name.
9. Stick brad through all layers and attach to plate snugly.
10. Find YOUR birthday on the white clock face.



11. Punch a hole in plate rim at your birthday.
12. Cut plastic straw three inches below bend.
13. Make straw candle: double gold pipe cleaner and slide folded end through straw until "flame" peeks out top.
14. Thread into punched hole and bend so the shorter end – the candle – leans out of the way of the turning clock hand.
15. Tape candle to back of plate.
16. Add wire star trim? (Staple in place.) Or ribbon? Or artificial flowers? Or star stickers? Silk petals? Try drilling a plastic spoon for the clock hand, or a Popsicle stick, or a tongue depressor.

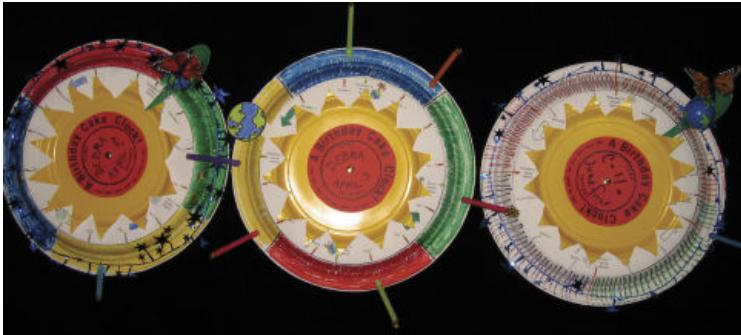
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Paper Plate Birthday Cake Clock



Directions, continued



Now! Set clock hand on today. Rotate the Earth from today to YOUR birthday, marked at candle. That's how far the Earth needs to travel to your next birthday cake! Try anyone's birthday. Add candles for the whole family, add your cat, your dog, your teachers!

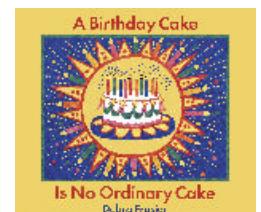
This simple project teaches the very complex concept of the Earth's circle around the Sun in one year's time.

It is helpful, before starting this project, to use a globe to physically "act out" the Earth's daily turning, spinning day into night, every 24 hours.

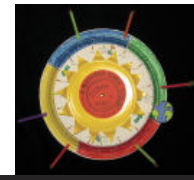
Next, add the wide circle the Earth is making around the Sun every 365 days. (Mention Leap Year only if the group is older.) Emphasize that the turning and circling never stops, and the circle is not a perfect circle. It is "squished" (or elliptical) just a little. Explain that the solstices, December 21st, in winter, and June 21st, in summer, mark the place where the Earth's imperfect circle swings the farthest from the Sun. The equinoxes mark the days when the Earth is closest to the Sun, September 21st, the beginning of fall, and March 21st, the first day of spring.



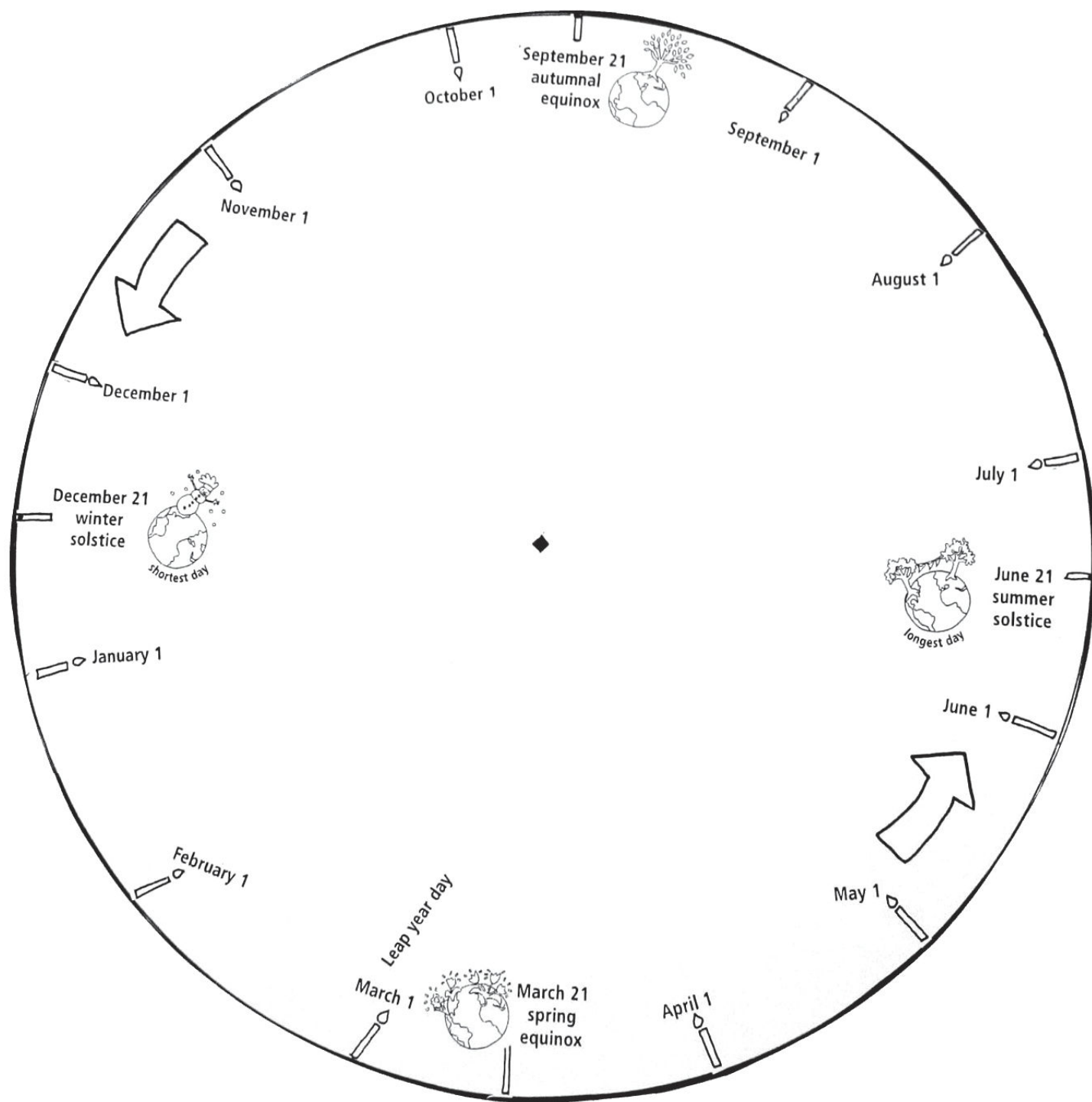
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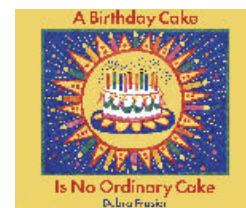
Paper Plate Birthday Cake Clock



Clock Face



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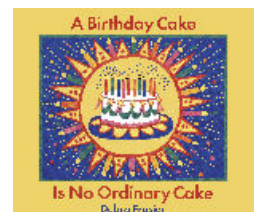
Paper Plate Birthday Cake Clock



Clock Face

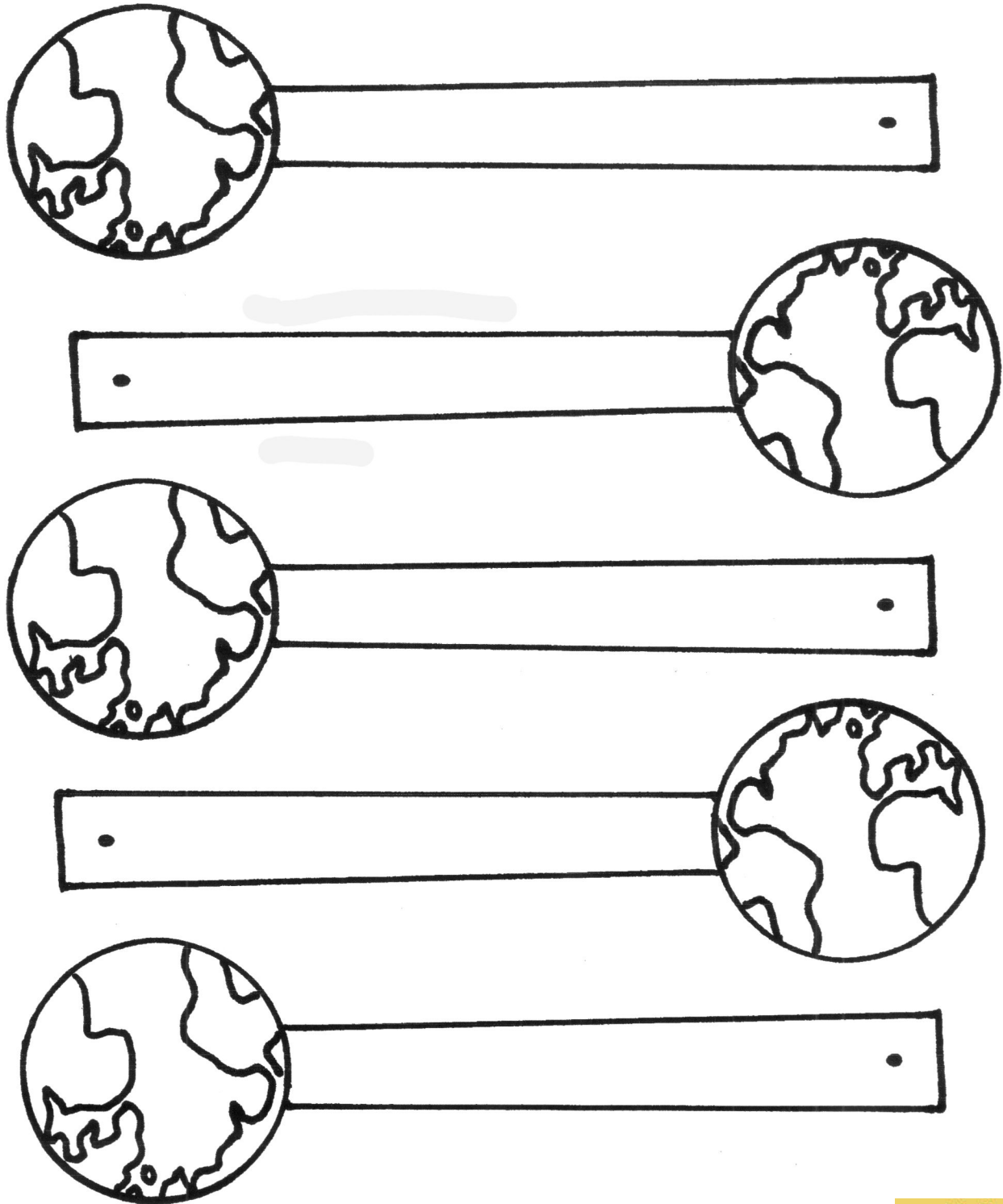


An activity to accompany ***A Birthday Cake Is No Ordinary Cake***, written and illustrated by Debra Frasier, Harcourt 2006. Visit www.debrafrasier.com for more downloadables.



Paper Plate Birthday Cake Clock

Clock Hand with Earth



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