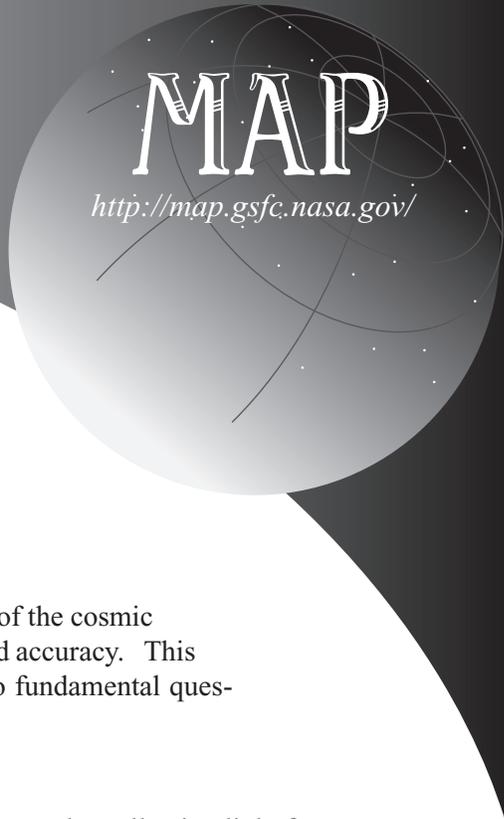


Launched:  
June 30, 2001



## Microwave Anisotropy Probe

### ***Kit Items***

MAP Fact Sheet and business cards

### ***Mission***

MAP is a NASA explorer mission that is measuring the temperature of the cosmic microwave background radiation over the full sky with unprecedented accuracy. This map of the remnant heat from the Big Bang will provide answers to fundamental questions about the origin and fate of our Universe.

### ***Education and Public Outreach Program***

The MAP mission will result in an incredible baby picture of the Universe by collecting light from the Big Bang. By examining this baby picture, the MAP team hopes to be able to address many key questions such as: Will the Universe expand forever, or will it recollapse? Is the Universe dominated by exotic dark matter? What is the shape of the Universe? How and when did the first galaxies form? How rapidly is the Universe expanding? The MAP mission has supported an educational web site called "A Teacher's Guide to the Universe", designed to help high school teachers explain the exciting results of this mission to their students while also addressing national science standards.

EPO site: [http://map.gsfc.nasa.gov/m\\_or.html](http://map.gsfc.nasa.gov/m_or.html)

### ***Seeing and Exploring the Universe***

MAP collects microwaves from all over the sky and uses them to create a very detailed all-sky temperature map. This map is a record of the temperature of the Universe 400,000 years after the Big Bang. COBE, a previous NASA mission, showed that the Universe was relatively uniform with only tiny variations in temperature. The MAP team will make a high resolution map of these variations. These hot and cold spots are the seeds for the large scale structure of galaxies and voids that we observe in the Universe today.

