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Community Engagement

This section is for forums, debates, projects and public resources where everyone has a seat at the table. The goal is not to dunk on people for asking questions. The goal is to make bad claims face good questions.

How We Engage

Good debunking starts with clarity. State the claim plainly, identify what would count as evidence, and separate the observable fact from the interpretation being attached to it. If a claim changes every time it is tested, that is useful information too.

Keep It Respectful

People rarely change their minds because someone humiliated them. We can be firm about evidence without being cruel to the person. A calm explanation, a reproducible experiment and a clean source usually do more than a hundred insults.

Use the Best Version of the Claim

Whenever possible, address the strongest version of an argument rather than the weakest meme version. That keeps the discussion honest and makes the result more useful for readers who are genuinely curious.

Build Public Tools

Calculators, diagrams, observation logs, side-by-side claim summaries and source collections all help. The best community work gives people something they can use to check the world for themselves.

How to Keep Conversations Productive

This resource should invite sincere people without rewarding bad-faith spirals. A good conversation is specific, measurable, and kind enough that someone can change their mind without feeling humiliated.

- **Ask for one claim:** avoid twenty-claim pileups.
- **Steelman first:** answer the strongest clean version of the claim.
- **Prefer predictions:** “What should we observe?” beats “Who do you trust?”
- **Keep receipts:** link to tools, observations, and source pages.
- **Know when to stop:** if every possible result is declared fake, the issue is no longer evidence.

Invitation Tone

A good invitation sounds like: “Bring your favorite claim. We’ll translate it into a prediction and see what reality says.”

Forums

This page collects places and formats for discussing flat earth claims, testing arguments and sharing resources. The best forum is not the loudest room; it is the one where claims can be made clearly and checked honestly.

Discussion Guidelines

- **Ask for the claim first.** A discussion needs a specific statement, not a fog bank of suspicion.
- **Separate evidence from interpretation.** “I saw X” and “therefore Earth is flat” are different steps.
- **Prefer repeatable tests.** Experiments anyone can reproduce are more useful than screenshots passed around without context.
- **Track predictions.** A model should tell us what we will observe before we observe it.

Suggested Thread Types

Claim review: one claim, one evidence bundle, one conclusion. **Experiment planning:** define the setup, expected results and controls before collecting data. **Source check:** compare original sources against clips, memes or edited summaries. **Beginner questions:** no shame, no pile-ons, just clear answers.

Moderation Principle

The standard is simple: curiosity is welcome; bad-faith repetition is not. A person can be wrong and still deserve patience. A person can also refuse every answer and exhaust a room. Healthy forums protect both openness and signal.

Useful Links to Add

As the project grows, this page can link to active discussion spaces, experiment logs and claim-review threads. The priority should be quality over volume: a smaller collection of well-moderated, evidence-focused conversations beats a giant archive of noise.

Suggested Debate Format

A useful debate format keeps the conversation from dissolving into an endless stack of unrelated claims.

1. **One claim at a time:** Write the claim as a sentence that can be tested.
2. **Define the expected observation:** What should we see if the claim is true? What should we see if it is false?
3. **Use agreed measurements:** Distance, observer height, target height, time, location and instrument details matter.
4. **Separate result from explanation:** First agree on what happened. Then argue about why.
5. **Log predictions:** A model that predicts before the observation is stronger than one that explains afterward.

Claim Review Template

Claim: What exactly is being asserted?

Evidence offered: Image, video, calculation, quote or observation.

Missing context: Scale, lens, location, date/time, altitude, refraction, source or assumptions.

Globe prediction: What the standard model predicts.

Flat-earth prediction: What the alternative model predicts, if one is provided.

Conclusion: Which prediction matched reality better?

Flat Meme Extravaganza

Here is our collection of flat earth memes — fully debunked, lightly roasted and carefully separated from actual evidence.

Why Memes Work

Memes compress an argument into a punchline. That makes them memorable, but it also makes them dangerous. A meme can skip the definitions, hide the scale problem and make a false comparison feel obvious before anyone has checked the math.

Common Meme Patterns

- **The tiny diagram problem:** Earth, Sun and Moon are drawn at cartoon scale, then the cartoon is treated like evidence.
- **The “looks flat to me” move:** local human perspective is mistaken for global geometry.
- **The fake gotcha:** one misunderstood photo or quote is framed as if it overturns astronomy, navigation and physics.
- **The conspiracy shortcut:** missing evidence is replaced with “they are hiding it.” Convenient, but not explanatory.

How to Debunk a Meme

First, translate the meme into a claim. Second, identify the assumption doing the work. Third, compare that assumption with real measurements. If the meme cannot survive being written as a normal sentence, it was never an argument; it was a vibe wearing sunglasses.

The Fun Part

Humor belongs here because absurd claims often deserve absurd packaging. The rule is that the joke should point toward the explanation, not replace it. Laugh, then check the scale, the source and the math.

Sample Meme Debunks

Memes can be useful teaching tools when they are treated as claim prompts instead of evidence. Each sample below turns a common meme-style gotcha into a specific claim, then answers it with the simplest relevant principle.

“If Earth spins 1,000 mph, why don’t we fly off?”

“ **Meme claim:** “Earth spins faster than a jet. You should feel it.”

What it misses: We feel acceleration, not steady speed. Earth’s rotation changes our direction very slowly over a huge radius. The centrifugal effect exists, but at the equator it reduces apparent weight by only about 0.34%.

Better punchline: “Speed sounds scary until you ask about acceleration.”

“Water always finds its level.”

“ **Meme claim:** “Oceans can’t curve because water is level.”

What it misses: “Level” means perpendicular to the local direction of gravity. On a spherical Earth, gravity points toward Earth’s center, so the ocean surface follows an equipotential surface that is locally level everywhere but globally curved.

Better punchline: “Level is local. Earth is large.”

“Show me the curve.”

“ **Meme claim:** “If the Earth were curved, it would be obvious from my backyard.”

What it misses: Human-scale views are tiny compared with Earth’s radius. Curvature becomes obvious through cumulative effects: horizon distance, hidden bottoms of distant objects, changing star fields, time zones, flight routes and shadow-angle differences.

Better punchline: “A basketball looks flat to an ant, too.”

“NASA made the globe.”

“ **Meme claim:** “The globe is a modern space-agency story.”

What it misses: Earth’s spherical shape was known long before NASA. Ancient eclipses, latitude-dependent stars, Eratosthenes’ shadow measurement, navigation and circumnavigation all predate spaceflight.

Better punchline: “NASA didn’t invent geometry.”

Educational Resources

An excellent place for quality materials that strengthen your understanding of our beautiful planet Earth. The best resources do more than state the answer; they show how we know.

Start with Observation

Begin with things you can observe directly: the changing height of Polaris, lunar eclipses, star trails, time zones, shadows at different latitudes and the way ships or buildings disappear bottom-first with distance. Direct observation gives the rest of the evidence a place to land.

Calculators

Check out [Walter Bislin's](#) Flat Earth Calculator [here](#). Tools like this are useful because they force a claim to become numbers. Once a claim becomes numbers, it can be tested.

Recommended Topics

- **Basic geometry:** angles, circles, spheres and scale.
- **Astronomy basics:** phases, eclipses, seasons and celestial poles.
- **Atmospheric optics:** refraction, mirages and horizon observations.
- **Navigation:** latitude, longitude, great-circle routes and GPS.
- **Scientific reasoning:** hypotheses, theories, predictions and falsifiability.

How to Use This Wiki

Pick a claim, read the relevant science, then look for a prediction. A good explanation should help you understand what you would expect to see next. That is where real learning begins.

Source Habits

When using any resource, prefer primary sources, full context and measurements over clipped images or anonymous summaries. A good educational path teaches you how to evaluate the next claim without needing someone else to pre-chew it.

Observation Project Ideas

These projects are practical ways to turn abstract arguments into direct experience.

- **Shadow pair experiment:** Compare stick shadows at two different latitudes near local solar noon.
- **Polaris altitude log:** Record Polaris altitude while travelling north or south.
- **Ship or building horizon observation:** Use known observer height, target height and distance, then compare with the curvature calculator.
- **Star trail photography:** Capture long exposures facing north, south and near the equator if travel allows.
- **Time-zone check:** Compare sunrise, sunset and solar noon between cities at different longitudes.

Source Quality Checklist

- Does the source provide raw measurements, or only a conclusion?
- Are the location, time, altitude and equipment stated?
- Can the observation be repeated by an ordinary person?
- Does the explanation make a prediction before the result is known?
- Does it depend on a conspiracy to dismiss every conflicting measurement?

Printable Claim Lab Worksheets

For structured investigations, use the [Printable Claim Lab Worksheets](#), [Observation Log Templates](#), and [Classroom Pack](#).

Meme Debunk Cards

This page provides short, shareable debunk cards. Each card is written so it can become a meme caption, social post or discussion prompt.

Card: “Earth Spins Too Fast”

Claim: Earth spins at about 1,670 km/h at the equator, so we should feel it.

Reply: You feel acceleration, not steady speed. The acceleration from Earth’s rotation is tiny because the radius is enormous.

Caption: “Speed gets the headline. Acceleration does the physics.”

Card: “Water Cannot Curve”

Claim: Water always finds its level, so oceans cannot curve.

Reply: Level means perpendicular to gravity. On Earth, gravity points toward the center, so the ocean can be locally level and globally curved.

Caption: “Level is local. Gravity is global.”

Card: “NASA Invented the Globe”

Claim: The globe depends on modern space agencies.

Reply: Ancient astronomers, sailors and surveyors had already measured Earth’s shape long before rockets existed.

Caption: “NASA didn’t invent shadows, ships or geometry.”

Card: “No Curve in Photos”

Claim: Horizon photos look flat.

Reply: Local horizons are subtle because Earth is huge. Photos also depend on altitude, field of view and lens distortion. Use measurements, not vibes.

Caption: “A wide planet makes a quiet curve.”

Card: “Antarctica Is an Ice Wall”

Claim: Antarctica is not a continent; it is the boundary wall around the flat Earth.

Reply: Antarctica is mapped, crossed, studied, photographed, and visited by researchers and tourists. Its coastlines, interior routes, time zones, and southern sky observations fit a continent on a globe, not a circular wall around all oceans.

Caption: “A continent with research stations is doing a lot of work for a wall.”

Card: “They Fake All the Images”

Claim: Space images are fake, so the globe is fake.

Reply: The globe does not depend on images. Shadows, stars, eclipses, navigation, surveying, time zones, and gravity measurements already point to the same shape.

Caption: “Delete every space photo. The geometry stays.”

Card: “Just Trust Your Eyes”

Claim: The Earth looks flat, so it is flat.

Reply: Your eyes are excellent locally. Planetary scale requires measurement. The same horizon that looks flat also hides distant objects bottom-first.

Caption: “Your eyes are local. Earth is large.”

Shareable Rebuttal Card Generator

For fast social replies, use the [Shareable Rebuttal Card Generator](#) and the [X Reply Playbook](#).

Source & Tool Atlas

This atlas collects external tools and reference sources that make the wiki stronger. The goal is not to outsource the argument to authority, but to give readers places where predictions, public data, and independent observations can be checked.

Sky and Time Predictions

- [US Naval Observatory — Complete Sun and Moon Data](#): rise, set, transit, twilight, and Moon data for specific locations.
- [Stellarium Web](#): interactive sky map for checking what should be visible from a location and time.
- [Heavens-Above](#): satellite passes, sky events, and observer-location-based predictions.
- [Globe at Night](#): citizen-science night-sky observations, including constellation-finding campaigns.

Eclipses, Tides, Weather, and Earth Systems

- [NASA Eclipse Web Site](#): long-range solar and lunar eclipse catalogs and maps.
- [NOAA Ocean Service — What are tides?](#): overview of lunar/solar gravitational tide mechanics.
- [NOAA JetStream](#): weather education resources and global atmospheric circulation context.
- [USGS Latest Earthquakes](#): live seismic observations and public earthquake data.

Signals and Satellites

- [AMSAT Satellite Status](#): amateur-radio satellite status reports from operators around the world.
- [NOAA/NCEI Geomagnetic Calculators](#): magnetic declination and field calculators for compass reality checks.

How to Use the Atlas

Pick one outside source, make a prediction, then compare it with direct observation. The best lesson happens when an outside prediction matches what you can see, time, photograph, or measure yourself.

Printable Claim Lab Worksheets

This page collects printable resources for turning flat-earth posts, memes, debate clips, and influencer claims into structured investigations. The goal is to slow the claim down until it becomes testable.

Interactive Worksheet Builder

Use the builder below to prepare a clean worksheet, then print or save it as a PDF from your browser.

<https://wiki.flatearthabsurdity.com/tools/claim-lab-worksheet/>

Best Uses

- **Classroom discussion:** one claim, one worksheet, one model comparison.
- **Debate prep:** require predictions before letting the conversation branch.
- **Social media reply:** answer with a measurement plan instead of a pile-on.
- **Personal curiosity:** keep a record of what each model predicted and what happened.

Worksheet Rule

If a claim cannot say what observation would count against it, it is not ready to be called proof. It is still a story, suspicion, or intuition.

Observation Log Templates

Observation logs make the site more than a reading experience. They let a visitor collect real evidence while preserving the details that make the evidence useful.

Universal Observation Log

Field	What to record
Claim	The exact sentence being tested.
Date/time	Include time zone and whether daylight saving time applies.
Location	Coordinates or clearly named place.
Equipment	Camera, lens/zoom, tripod, compass, level, phone app, telescope, etc.
Geometry	Observer height, target height, distance, direction, elevation angle.
Conditions	Weather, temperature, visibility, haze, mirage/refraction notes.
Prediction	What each model said before the observation.
Result	What was actually observed.

Horizon Observation Log

- Observer height above water/ground
- Target name, height, and distance
- Whether the target bottom is visible, hidden, mirrored, or distorted
- Refraction notes: temperature inversion, shimmer, mirage, haze
- Raw unedited image plus zoom/crop if used

Sky Observation Log

- Latitude, longitude, local time, and UTC time
- Direction faced and compass method
- Sun altitude/azimuth or star target
- Expected result from globe model and alternate model
- Photo/video plus notes about lens and exposure

Why Logs Matter

Most viral flat-earth evidence omits just enough context to feel decisive. A good log removes that ambiguity.

Classroom Pack: Claim Lab Activities

This classroom pack is designed for teachers, parents, clubs, and curious groups who want to discuss flat-earth claims without turning the room into a shouting match.

Activity 1: Meme to Measurement

1. Pick one flat-earth meme or short post.
2. Rewrite it as a testable claim.
3. List what information is missing.
4. Make one globe prediction and one flat-earth prediction.
5. Decide what observation would distinguish them.

Activity 2: Model Scorecard Debate

Assign one group to defend a globe prediction and another to define the flat-earth prediction. The key rule: no group may rely on insults or institutional trust. Both must make predictions.

Activity 3: Route Reality Check

Use the flat-map distance checker to compare southern hemisphere routes. Ask students what would happen to airlines, shipping, and emergency planning if the flat-map distances were physically true.

Activity 4: Local Sun Challenge

Choose two cities on the same date. Compare sunrise, sunset, solar noon altitude, and daylight duration. Ask whether one local-Sun diagram can predict both locations at once.

Discussion Norm

Be kind to people. Be ruthless with predictions.

Shareable Rebuttal Card Generator

Flat-earth claims often travel as short social posts. This tool answers in the same compact format without abandoning the site's standard: name the claim, state the flaw, and point back to a test.

<https://wiki.flatearthabsurdity.com/tools/rebuttal-card-generator/>

How to Use It

1. Pick the recurring claim pattern.
2. Customize the wording if needed.
3. Copy the reply text or screenshot the card.
4. Link to the relevant claim-lab page for the deeper explanation.

Tone Standard

Be sharp about the claim, not cruel to the person. The strongest response is usually: "What does your model predict?"

Quick Rebuttal Cards: Common Flat-Earth Claims

These compact cards are meant for fast reference. Each one names the claim, gives the short answer, and points to a better test.

“We can see too far.”

“ **Short answer:** A photo is not geometry until it includes observer height, target height, distance, refraction, and whether the bottom is hidden.

Better test: Hidden-bottom observation with measured heights and refraction notes.

“Water always finds its level.”

“ **Short answer:** Level means perpendicular to local gravity. Local level surfaces can be globally curved.

Better test: Separate local construction meaning from planetary-scale equipotential surface.

“Earth spins too fast.”



Short answer: You feel acceleration, not steady speed. Earth's rotational acceleration is small but measurable.

Better test: Calculate centrifugal effect or observe a Foucault pendulum.

“The local Sun explains day and night.”

“**Short answer:** Then predict sunrise direction, sunset time, solar noon altitude, polar day/night, and solar angular size with one geometry.

Better test: Use the Flat Sun Prediction Checker.

“NASA lies.”

“**Short answer:** Earth's shape does not depend on one agency. Shadows, navigation, eclipses, stars, and geodesy predate spaceflight.

Better test: Use observations that do not require NASA at all.

X Reply Playbook: How to Answer Without Chasing Every Rabbit

Social-media flat-earth arguments are optimized to branch. A good reply does not chase every branch; it narrows the claim until reality can test it.

The Four-Move Reply

1. **Quote the claim:** “You are claiming we see too far for a globe.”
2. **Name the missing variable:** “What observer height, target height, distance, and refraction conditions?”
3. **Ask for a prediction:** “What should your flat model predict before the photo?”
4. **Link the test:** send the relevant claim-lab page or tool.

Do Not Accept the Claim Stack

If the topic jumps from curvature to NASA to Antarctica to Bible verses in one thread, pause and return to the first testable claim. A stack of suspicions is not a model.

Useful Replies

- “What observation would prove your model wrong?”
- “Can your model predict that before we check?”
- “Which flat map are you using, and what distance does it predict?”
- “Does this explanation also work in the southern hemisphere?”

- “Are you rejecting NASA only, or also sailors, surveyors, eclipse chasers, ham radio operators, and amateur astronomers?”

Win Condition

The win is not humiliating someone. The win is getting the claim into a form where a curious reader can test it.