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Welcome to Flat Earth Absurdity's Wiki

Introduction

Flat Earth Absurdity aims to be a comprehensive resource for exploring astronomy, cosmology, and the basic physics needed to understand and debunk flat earth claims. Our goal is to provide clear explanations, encourage critical thinking and offer tools to help you evaluate evidence for yourself.

Historical Evidence for a Round Earth

People have recognized the Earth is spherical for thousands of years. Observers in ancient Greece and Egypt deduced the Earth's curvature by examining the paths of stars across the sky among other observations. Mariners later confirmed this with circumnavigation showing that travelers could cross an ocean and return home from the opposite direction (www.nasa.gov). The 15th-17th centuries saw explosive growth in oceanic exploration. Despite knowing the Earth was round (from preserved Greek texts), navigational constraints favored flat models until the mid-18th century, as spherical calculations were too complex. With the development of new mathematical tools for performing calculations (involving spherical trigonometry) Maritime navigation's models shifted from simple plane-based methods to spherical models driven by the need for accuracy. Since then every long distance navigation system on earth has relied on the spherical model.

Scientific Principles and Methods

Science is more than a collection of facts; it is a method of inquiry. The scientific method involves asking questions, doing background research, forming a hypothesis, conducting experiments and observations, analyzing results and communicating findings. A hypothesis is an educated guess that offers a tentative explanation for an observable phenomenon; scientists test hypotheses through experiments (www.masterclass.com). When a hypothesis is repeatedly tested and supported by data it can develop into a theory – a widely accepted, substantiated explanation for a natural phenomenon (www.masterclass.com). The difference between a hypothesis and a theory is crucial: theories such as the Big Bang, heliocentrism, general relativity and evolution have earned their status because they are backed by extensive evidence and predictive power (www.masterclass.com).

Ideas bloom in the fertile ground of inquiry, but they must withstand rigorous scrutiny to flourish. Throughout this wiki we illustrate how hypotheses evolve into theories by summarizing the experiments, observations and mathematical models that allow scientific ideas to earn their place as accepted truths.

Dispelling Myths and Addressing Misconceptions

In our quest for knowledge, we confront misconceptions and myths that have taken root in the public consciousness. Flat earth claims typically ignore the overwhelming observational evidence for a spherical planet. For example, photos from space clearly show the Earth as a globe; time zones, the changing angle of the Sun at different latitudes, and the way ships disappear hull-first over the horizon all require a round Earth to make sense. Evidence from space geodesy—the science of measuring Earth’s shape and gravitational field—depends on Earth being a sphere to determine positions and navigate accurately (www.nasa.gov).

Community Engagement

We encourage respectful dialogue and critical inquiry. Explore our forums, engage with absurdity counters that offer rebuttals to pseudoscientific arguments, and enjoy a bit of levity in the Flat Meme Extravaganza. Building a community resilient against misinformation requires curiosity, open mindedness, and a willingness to revisit our beliefs in light of evidence.

Further Reading

- **NASA - “How Do We Know the Earth Isn’t Flat?”**: A NASA expert explains how ancient observations and modern space missions show Earth is a sphere (www.nasa.gov).
- **MasterClass - “Theory vs. Hypothesis: Basics of the Scientific Method”**: Overview of what distinguishes hypotheses from theories and examples of major scientific theories (www.masterclass.com).

What Makes This Resource Different

Flat Earth Absurdity is not meant to be another folder of dunk posts. The goal is to become a **claim lab**: a place where viral claims, sincere questions, and educational demonstrations are turned into clear predictions anyone can inspect.

The promise: every major claim should eventually have a simple path from *claim* → *prediction* → *observation* → *what the result means*.

For flat-earth curious readers

You should be able to arrive with a specific objection, find the strongest clean version of it, and see exactly what would count as evidence. The tone should be firm, but not sneering. Curiosity is welcome; moving goalposts are not.

For educators and skeptics

You should be able to grab a classroom-friendly explanation, a calculator, a meme response, or an observation recipe without needing to rebuild the argument from scratch.

The unique angle

- **Claim-first structure:** pages begin with the claim people actually say, not with a textbook chapter.
- **Prediction-first reasoning:** the site emphasizes what each model predicts before the observation.
- **Interactive tools:** calculators and simulators make scale visible instead of asking readers to trust paragraphs.
- **Conspiracy economics:** impossible coordination claims are tested against incentives, supply chains, customers, institutions, and independent observations.
- **Shareable answers:** meme cards and short replies turn long explanations into usable conversation pieces.

Choose Your Path

- **I saw a meme:** start with [Meme Debunk Cards](#).
- **I want to test something myself:** start with [How to Test a Flat-Earth Claim](#).
- **I want the best evidence:** start with [Evidence Map: What You Can Check Yourself](#).
- **I'm stuck on conspiracy claims:** start with [Economics of a Hypothetical Globe Deception](#).

New Lab Tools Added

- [Interactive Claim Lab Builder](#)

- [Eratosthenes Shadow Experiment](#)
- [Solar Noon Longitude Challenge](#)
- [Source & Tool Atlas](#)
- [Reality Check Field Guide](#)

New: Influencer Claim Lab

The [Influencer Claim Lab](#) tracks the recurring claims pushed by prominent flat-earth accounts and turns them into direct tests. The first targets include local-Sun claims, Flat Earth Dave's clock-app model, Eric Dubay's "200 proofs" pattern, and the viral "we see too far" argument.

What Makes This Wiki Different

Most flat-earth rebuttal pages answer claims one at a time. That is useful, but it can become a pile of disconnected arguments. This wiki should be different: it should help readers learn how to evaluate claims.

The Claim Lab Model

Every strong page should eventually follow a repeatable structure:

1. **Claim:** What is being asserted in plain language?
2. **Prediction:** What should happen if the claim is true?
3. **Observation:** What can be measured, photographed, calculated, or repeated?
4. **Comparison:** Which model predicts the result with fewer patches?
5. **Next test:** What would change our confidence?

Why This Helps Both Sides

Flat-earth conversations often fail because one side hears “trust authority” and the other hears “ignore evidence.” A prediction-first approach lowers the temperature. It asks both sides to say what reality should look like before checking.

What Belongs Here

- Clear explanations of scale, geometry, gravity, astronomy, and navigation.
- Interactive tools that turn invisible scale into visible numbers.
- Observation recipes that ordinary people can repeat.

- Short, respectful answers for common memes and debate claims.
- Conspiracy-economics analysis that asks whether a proposed deception could actually survive contact with incentives and independent institutions.

Editorial Standard

The site should be playful, but accurate. “Absurdity” points at the claims, not at the person asking. The strongest version of an argument should be answered before the weakest version is mocked.

Signature Features to Build Toward

- **Claim cards:** compact claim/reply/prediction blocks for social sharing.
- **Observation recipes:** step-by-step experiments with fields for location, time, equipment, and expected result.
- **Model scorecards:** compare flat and globe predictions side by side.
- **Absurdity counters:** estimate the number of independent people, industries, and incentives involved in a proposed deception.
- **Tool-first pages:** place calculators next to the exact claim they clarify.

The site should feel like a workshop, not a lecture hall: bring a claim, run it through the lab, and leave with a clearer way to think.

Reality Check Field Guide

This field guide turns the wiki into a practical learning path. Instead of asking readers to accept a conclusion, it invites them to make predictions, check observations, and compare models.

The 7-Day Reality Check

1. **Day 1 — Claim Lab:** choose one claim and write the flat and globe predictions before checking anything.
2. **Day 2 — Shadows:** measure a shadow near local solar noon and compare with a friend in another city.
3. **Day 3 — The Horizon:** photograph a distant target from two different heights.
4. **Day 4 — The Sky:** identify Polaris, Crux, or another latitude-sensitive sky marker.
5. **Day 5 — Solar Noon:** compare solar noon across longitudes.
6. **Day 6 — Satellites and Signals:** track a visible satellite or amateur radio satellite pass.
7. **Day 7 — Convergence:** ask which model predicted the most observations with the fewest patches.

What Makes This Fair

The guide does not start with “believe the expert.” It starts with ordinary predictions. If a model is good, it should risk being wrong before the result is known.

Suggested Kit

- Smartphone camera and compass app
- Meter stick or straight pole for shadows
- Notebook or shared spreadsheet
- Known target height/distance for horizon observations
- Stellarium, Heavens-Above, USNO Sun/Moon data, and the tools embedded in this wiki