Make a Spinning Pulsar

1. Carefully cut out your pulsar disc and decorate if you wish.

2. Using a ball of sticky tack underneath to help you, push a cocktail stick through the small blue circle in the middle.

3. Take 2 small, pea sized balls of sticky tack and use to fix the disc to the stick – one at the top, one underneath.

4. Make sure you have more stick at the top than the bottom.

5. Spin!

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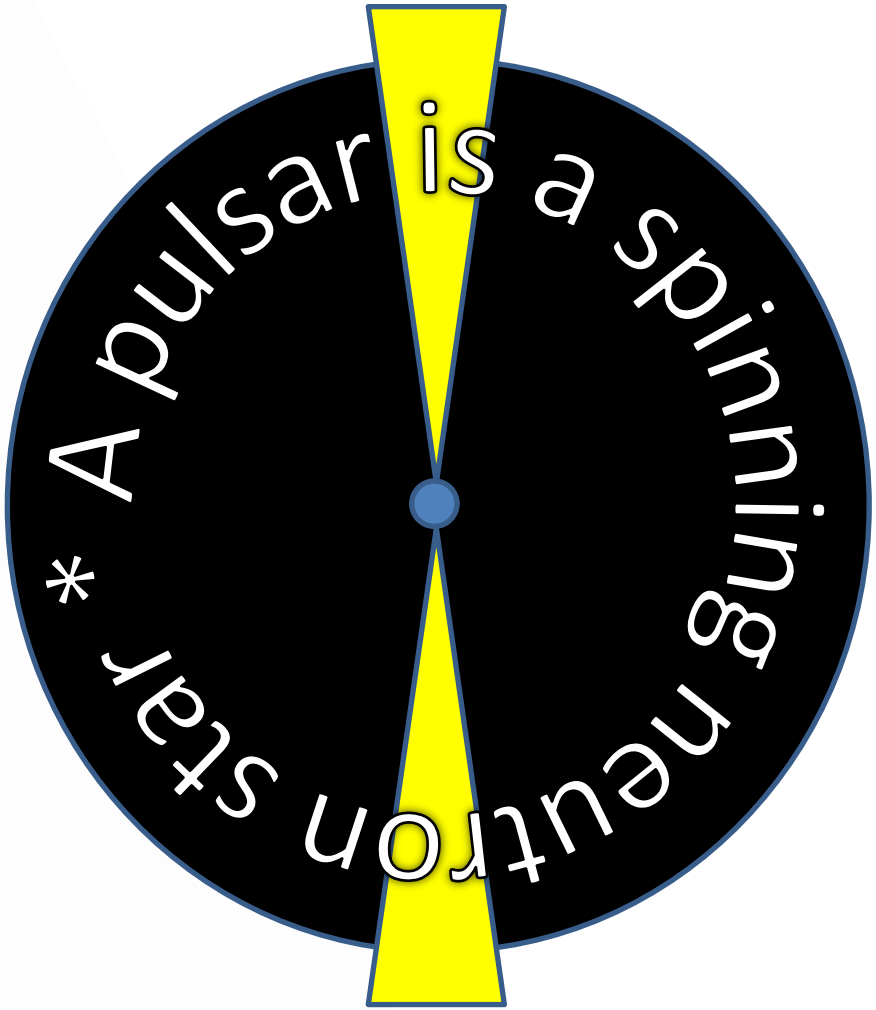
cut along the dotted line



Neutron Star & Pulsar Facts

Neutron stars are created when giant stars die in a supernova and collapse in on themselves creating a very small, dense star.

Pulsars are simply spinning neutron stars, discovered in 1967 by Jocelyn Bell Burnell whilst she was a PhD student.

They have jets of particles streaming out from their magnetic poles. These jets produce very powerful beams of light. The beams of light from the jets sweep around as the pulsar rotates, just like the spotlight in a lighthouse.

Just as boats on the ocean see flashes of light from a lighthouse, we only see flashes of light from a pulsar as it rotates.

The time between each pulse or flash of light is extremely consistent, rivalling the timing of an atomic clock.

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