

Activity Time!

Make a Model of the Solar System

The sun is at the center of our solar system. All the planets and other objects orbit around it in their own paths.

Aurora borealis



WHAT YOU NEED

various sized balls, Styrofoam balls, pom-poms or construction paper circles, string, glue, large black posterboard

WHAT YOU DO

First, ask an adult to help you research the solar system and the planets in it. Select balls or circle cutouts to represent each of the eight planets and the sun, based on their sizes. For example, the sun will be the largest object. Mercury will be the smallest (and VERY small compared to the sun).

Place the planets in orbit around the sun in the correct order. You might place the balls on the floor or hang them from the ceiling. Or you could paste cutouts on a large piece of black paper. Which planet is closest to the sun? Which planet is farthest away?

What other objects in our solar system can you include in your model?

How about our moon or an asteroid belt? Where might a comet go? You might even want to include Pluto in your model!