

Scale model of the solar system

In this activity, you will make two scale models of the solar system. A scale model uses the same measurement ratios as the real object does. The first model will compare the distances between the planets and the Sun. The second model will compare the sizes of the planets.

The Colorado Scale Model Solar System depicts the Sun, the planets, and the distances between them all on the same scale of 1 to 10 billion. That is, the real objects and distances are 10 billion times larger than the objects and distances in the model. On this scale, Sun is about the size of a large grapefruit, while Earth is the size of the ...

You can now build your scale model. You can do this with a long tape measure, or you can measure the size of your pace and walk it off counting the number of steps you take. To mark a planet's place you can use a piece of paper on a post that you stick into the ground, or you can use a flag, or even a person.

exploring a more accurate scale model Solar System (or at least part of one) can help students and the public better understand the vastness of space and the challenges of space exploration.

Using scale models helps us to visualise this. In this project we'll show you how to make a model of the Solar System that shows the distances between the planets to scale. It makes for a fun science and astronomy project for kids, both at home and in school.

Although we could print the planet sizes to scale, the paper would need to be way too large to show the scaled distances. Instead, to help you understand the sizes and distances of our solar system, we've created a scale model. Our Solar System, real imagery but not to scale.

In this project, you will create your own scale model of the solar system by learning how to calculate scale distances, the relative sizes of planets, or both. Then, use beads and string, sidewalk chalk, or your own creative choice of materials to build a model you can explore - or maybe even wear!

In this activity, students use scale, proportion and/or ratios to develop a scale solar system calculator. Using spreadsheet software, students will determine the size of and/or distances between planets on a solar system model that fits on a playground.

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