

Lesson 1: Overview of the Solar System

Engagement Questions:

Name the planets in order, starting with Mercury. _____

How do the planets move around the Sun? _____

Describe the difference between *rotation* and *revolution*. _____

Exploration Activity:

Choose which bead will represent each planet. Then, tell why you chose each one.

Name	Bead Color	Why did you choose this color to represent this planet?	Scaled Distance from the Sun (in cm)
Sun			0 cm
Mercury			4 cm
Venus			7 cm
Earth			10 cm
Mars			15 cm
Jupiter			50 cm
Saturn			100 cm
Uranus			190 cm
Neptune			300 cm

1. Work with your team to measure 5 meters of yarn.
2. Then, tie the Sun bead to the end of the yarn.
3. Use your centimeter ruler to measure how far Mercury is from the Sun (Use the table above). Then, tie the Mercury bead at that distance (4 cm).
4. In order, and one at a time, measure out the rest of the distances and tie the correct bead at each point.

Explanation:

Using what you have learned, draw a picture of the solar system. Don't forget to put the planets in the correct order and label them.

Evaluation:

How might you describe the solar system to a friend who knows nothing about the relative sizes of the Sun and planets or the distances among them? _____
