

Bead and String Model of the Solar System

By Carolyn Hollis

Materials:

10 beads plus 1 sun bead, 4 meters of string, meter stick

Directions:

1. Tie the sparkly bead on one end of the string. This will represent the Sun.
2. Using the scale distances from the chart, tie a bead on the string to represent each planet. Notice these are distances from the Sun. Be sure you are making all of your measurements from the Sun bead.
3. Discuss your observations. What have you noticed about the solar system? How does this model compare to other models you have made?

Planet Data

Planet	Distance from sun	Scale distance from Sun
Mercury	0.4 AU	4 cm
Venus	0.7 AU	7 cm
Earth	1.0 AU	10 cm
Mars	1.5 AU	15 cm
Asteroid Belt	2.8 AU	28 cm
Jupiter	5.0 AU	50 cm
Saturn	10.0 AU	100 cm
Uranus	19.0 AU	190 cm
Neptune	30.0 AU	300 cm
Pluto	39.0 AU	390 cm