

Pocket Solar System



Make

Our Solar System is made up of the Sun and all the smaller objects that move around it, including eight planets and many dwarf planets, moons, asteroids, and comets.

Materials Needed:

Paper, ruler, scissors, tape or glue, colored pencils or markers.

Instructions:

Step 1: Cut strips of paper about 7.5 cm (3 inch) wide. Tape or glue them together to make a strip one meter (39 inches) long.

Step 2: Draw the edge of the sun on one end of the paper, and the Kuiper Belt at the other end.

Hint: Draw the edge of the sun as close to the end of the paper as you can. This will make the following steps easier.

Step 3: Follow the steps on the Folding Instructions sheet to add planets and asteroids. Try to predict where each one goes!

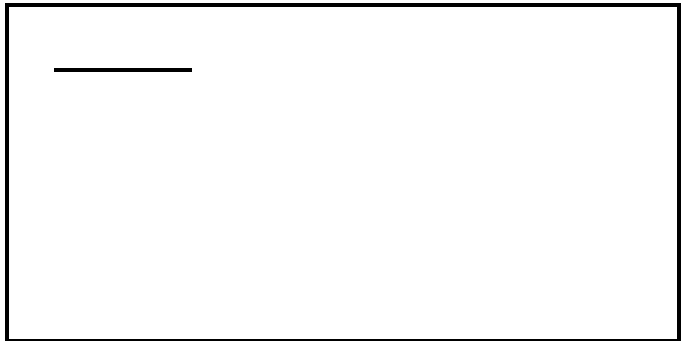
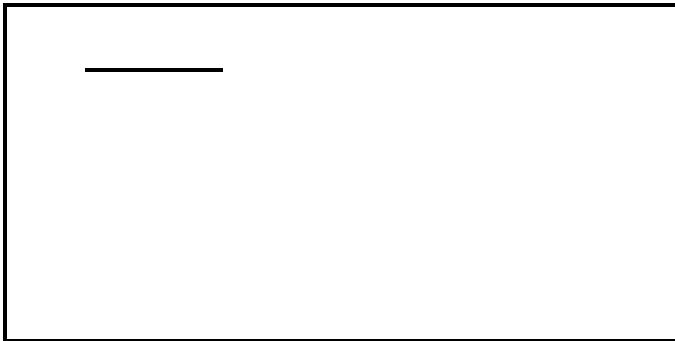
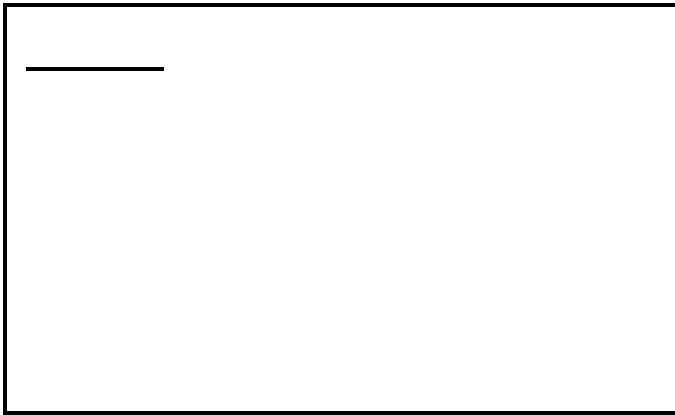
Look at the [Solar System Scale](#). This model is accurate for distance, but not for size. At this scale, the Sun would be a grain of sand, and you would need a magnifying glass to see any of the planets!

Pocket Solar System: Page 2



Think and Discuss • W

Were you surprised by the distances between the planets? Why or why not?





is the biggest planet in our solar system. It is a gas giant, without a solid surface. It has a giant storm called the Great Red Spot. Jupiter has at least 79 moons!

is known for its beautiful rings, made of chunks of ice and rock. Saturn is very light; it would float in water (if there was a bathtub big enough)!

is the only planet that rotates on its side. The methane in its atmosphere makes it appear blue. Uranus also has rings, but they are faint and hard to see.

is the most distant planet from the Sun. It is made of a thick fog of water, ammonia, and methane over a solid core. It has a thick, windy atmosphere.

The () is a ring of icy bodies outside of Neptune's orbit. e F