CREATING A POCKET SOLAR SYSTEM

Can you name all the planets in our solar system? In this simple activity, learn how to create a pocket solar system and see a visual of the eight planets’ relative distance from the sun.

MATERIALS:

- 1 piece of blank paper
- A writing utensil
- Tape
- Scissors
- Optional: materials to decorate (e.g., markers, stickers, colored pencils, etc.)

PROCEDURE:

**Step 1:** Take a blank sheet of paper and divide it into four even sections, length-wise.

**Step 2:** Cut the sections and tape them together so they form one long strip of paper.
Step 3: On one end of the strip of paper, write “Sun.”

At the other end of the paper, write “Kuiper belt.”

Step 4: Fold the strip of paper in half and crease the fold. On the crease, write “Uranus.”

Step 5: When the strip is folded in half, fold it again in half and crease the fold. This will give you two more crease lines on either side of “Uranus.”

Step 6: On the crease that is between Uranus and Sun, write “Saturn.”

On the crease between Uranus and Kuiper belt, write “Neptune.”
**Step 7:** Take the end of the paper that says “Sun” and fold it to the crease that says “Saturn.”

Crease the fold and write “Jupiter.”

**Step 8:** Take the end of the paper that says “Sun” and fold it to the crease that says “Jupiter.”

Crease the fold and write “asteroid belt.”

**Step 9:** Take the end of the paper that says “Sun” and fold it to the crease that says “asteroid belt.”

Crease the fold and write “Mars” off to the right side of the fold.

**Step 10:** Take the end of the paper that says “Sun” and fold it to the crease that says “Mars.” Then fold that fold one more time so that in total there are three new crease lines.
Step 11: On the crease closest to “Mars,” write “Earth” to the left side of the crease. On the crease above it, write “Venus” in the middle of the crease. Lastly, on the crease closest to “Sun,” write “Mercury.”

Step 12: Lastly, decorate your pocket solar system with stickers, markers, or colored pencils!