DESCRIPTION

Students learn about the vast distances between planets by creating a scale model of the solar system using a ruler and common objects.

OBJECTIVES

- **Visualize the relative sizes and distances between planets.**
- **Understand the concept of scale and proportions.**

CREATE A SCALE MODEL OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM

MATERIALS

- A large outdoor area or long hallway.
- Objects to represent planets (e.g., peppercorn for Mercury, basketball for Jupiter).
- Measuring tape or ruler.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Research the distances and sizes of planets relative to the Sun.
2. Assign each student a planet and help them calculate its scaled distance.
3. Place the "Sun" at one end of the space and measure out where each planet should go.
4. Have students present interesting facts about their assigned planet.

TIPS FOR THE EDUCATOR

- Use NASA's Solar System Exploration website for accurate data.
- Discuss how light takes time to travel across the solar system.

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