

MAKE A SOLAR SYSTEM MODEL

How big are the objects in our solar system?
How far apart are they? The answers may surprise you!
Explore the relative sizes and distances of the planets
in this scale-model activity, adaptable for all ages.

MATERIALS

- Beads, buttons, or similar objects of different sizes (to represent planets)
- String, yarn, or thin rope
- Scissors
- Phone or computer with internet access

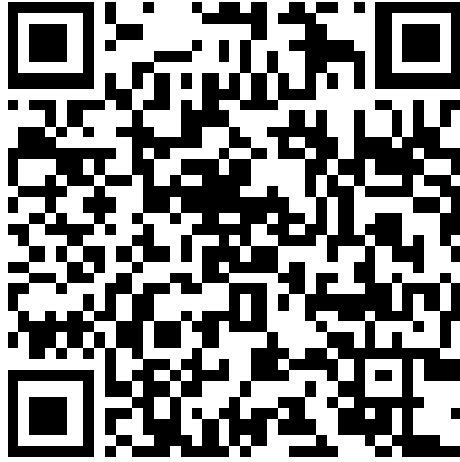
PROCEDURE

1. Select a large object (bead, button, or other item) to represent the Sun. This will be the largest object in your model, so plan accordingly!
2. Scan the QR code on the back of this page to use the **Scale Calculator**. Enter the size of the object representing your sun, and it will calculate the relative size and distance of the other objects in our solar system.
3. Decide which bead, button, or other object will represent each planet based on the size listed in the calculator.
4. Thread and tie each object onto a piece of string according to the distances in the Scale Calculator.

*Note: You can also draw the solar system on a **roll of toilet paper** or other long paper, rather than stringing objects onto thread!*

PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OCM BOCES

MAKE A SOLAR SYSTEM MODEL



Scan the QR Code to use
the Scale Calculator!
(Exploratorium)



Scan the QR Code to watch a video
about the construction of an accurate
scale model in the Nevada desert!
(PBS Learning Media)

PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OCM BOCES

**SOLAR
ECLIPSE**

MOST *