

<p align="center"> “Live... from McDonald Observatory!” Videoconference “Discover our Solar System: Make a Size Scale Model” Student activity sheet </p>	 <p align="center">McDonald Observatory</p>
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Name: _____ Date: _____

Scale models are a way to represent something. Scale models can be used to represent the size of something, the shape, the distance, or many other possibilities. You could use a scale model to represent something that is very small (like molecules or atoms) or something that is very large (like the solar system). Today you are going to make a scale model that demonstrates the relative size (volume) and distance of two members of our solar system. You will have to guess (or estimate) which two objects you have represented.

Make 3 Guesses:

After you have made two Play-doh spheres, look closely at your model and make three guesses for what these objects might represent in the solar system.

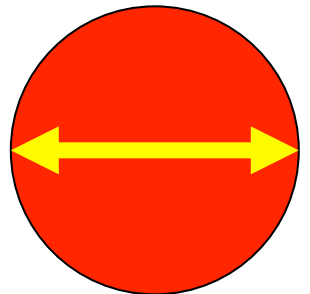
Guess #1: _____ and _____

Guess #2: _____ and _____

Guess #3: _____ and _____

Measure the diameter of the large sphere. Within your group determine the best way to measure the diameter (there may be more than one way to do this).

For Example: Diameter = 3.8 cm



Diameter of large sphere: _____ cm

Calculate the distance for 30 “large sphere” diameters: _____ cm



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Reflect and Discuss:

Use the space below to reflect and discuss the differences and similarities between the model your group made and the models made by other groups.

<p>Similarities:</p> <p>Differences:</p>

Extend: Where is the Sun?

Use the space on the following page for making calculations in the extended part of the activity to put the Sun in right context in your model.

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Where is the Sun?

Calculations: