

How Far Are We From the Sun and Other Planets?

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Students seem to be so interested in the solar system and our school consistently needs to work on “measuring” as indicated by Terra Nova Testing. With those 2 things in mind, I designed a project that I hoped students would enjoy and learn from.

Pairs of students will select a planet, find 2 or 3 facts about it that contain interesting numbers, write them down on index cards, and share them with the class. Students will then color, cut out , and construct meter “sticks”.

Pairs of students will then measure the given distance of their planet from the sun (the playground) and use colored chalk to show its relative position in the Solar System.

I took pictures of the process and made a poster of it! What fun and learning!

Mercury	40cm
Venus	72 cm
Earth	1m
Mars	1.5m
Jupiter	5.2m
Saturn	9.5m
Uranus	19.2m
Neptune	30m



