



# Far, Far Away

## Introduction

In the book, *Going Around the Sun: Some Planetary Fun* by Marianne Berkes, the reader is introduced to the eight planets that orbit (revolve) around the sun. In this activity, students estimate the approximate distances between the planets.

## Materials Needed

- ◆ A large roll of toilet paper
- ◆ Poster paper and markers
- ◆ *Going Around the Sun: Some Planetary Fun* by Marianne Berkes

## Key Concepts

- ◆ A system is an organized group of related objects or components.
- ◆ Math measures change.
- ◆ Rate compares one measured quantity with another.

For standards correlation please see our website.

## Procedure

1. Download or make a chart of the approximate distances of the planets from the sun.  
Mercury: 36 million miles  
Venus: 67.2 million miles  
Earth: 93 million miles  
Mars: 141.6 million miles  
Jupiter: 483.6 million miles  
Saturn: 886.7 million miles  
Uranus: 1,784 million miles  
Neptune: 2,794.4 million miles
2. Read *Going Around the Sun: Some Planetary Fun*
3. On poster paper draw a large Sun and each of the eight planets, using the glossary in the book as a guide.
4. On a large roll of toilet paper, place the Sun on the first sheet.
5. Then using a scale of one tissue = 10,000,000 miles, mark off 3-1/2 sheets and place the planet Mercury on that sheet. Continue down the roll, placing the planets in their approximate distances from the Sun. Venus would require 6.7 sheets; Earth 9.3, Mars 14.1, Jupiter 48.4, Saturn 88.7, Uranus 178.6 and Neptune 280 sheets.

## Nature Connections

- ◆ On a black piece of paper, have students create the night sky. Use glitter, glue, silver and gold pens, chalk and stickers for stars, planets and more.
- ◆ Ask students to research the constellations. Ask them how the groupings of stars got their names. Do some stars have more than one name? If so, why?

## Additional Resources

### Facts About Telescopes

- ◆ By placing one lens (convex) in front of another (concave), an image of a remote object can be magnified.
- ◆ The spectrum of colors in light do not bend equally through glass lenses and this causes a distortion of the image. The image distortion is corrected with mirrors.

