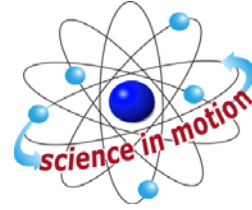


SECTION 6: THE PLANETS LAB



Westminster College

INTRODUCTION

This section incorporates a variety of lessons that address the following:

Orbit: the path an object follows when it revolves around another object.

Planet: an object in space that reflects light from a nearby star around which it revolves due to gravity.

Satellite: an object that revolves around a larger body. Moons are satellites.

Solar System: a system of objects in orbit around our Sun.

ASSESSMENT ANCHORS ADDRESSED

S4.A.3.1 Use models to illustrate simple concepts and compare the models to what they represent.

S4.A.3.3 Identify and make observations about patterns that regularly occur and reoccur in nature.

S4.D.3.1 Describe Earth's relationship to the sun and the moon.

PURPOSE

Students make a model of our solar system to discover the relative distance between planets, study planets and constellations, and create their own satellite messages to better understand our solar system.

MATERIALS

For the class:	For each pair:
*2 playground balls	4 meters of adding tape
1 planet poster	1 measuring tape
	*colored paper
	Data chart

*Teacher provides items marked with **