

Cheerio for the Planets!

Driving Question
How do you study a system that won't fit in the classroom?

What Students are Doing

What Students Figure Out

What is scale?

Students explore and discuss several different applications of the concept of scale

The concept of scale is used to make sense of information in a variety of STEM disciplines

How might we apply the concept of scale to learning about the solar system?

Students brainstorm different aspects of the solar system they might investigate

We could use scale to learn about variables such a distance between and size of objects in the solar system

Given the size of the solar system, how can we represent the distance between objects in a way that allows us to learn more about the interactions?

Students create their own scale model

We can use a variety of scales to make sense of information about distances between celestial objects

What are the limitations of our scale model?

Students engage in discussion about the models' limitations

To learn more about interactions between solar objects, we need more data.