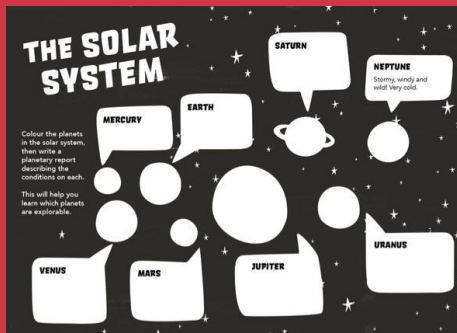


### EXTENSION ACTIVITY 3.4 CREATE YOUR OWN SOLAR SYSTEM MODEL

Supporting Chapter Three of the  
Principia Space Diary  
[http://principiaspacediary.org/  
activities/the-solar-system](http://principiaspacediary.org/activities/the-solar-system)

#### LEARNING LEVEL

Can be adapted for all primary levels



#### Resources Required

- Diagram of the solar system as a reference
- Craft and modelling materials
- A range of fruit (optional)

#### Background to this Activity

Build your own solar system model. This can be done under strict instruction, with individuals or groups following a specific design, or pupils can be given completely free rein using a simple success criteria.

#### Learning Objective

To create your own 3D model of the solar system.

#### Running the Activity

If you were to give your class one or two projects, or if you wanted groups to do different models to compare, select from the ideas below. If you give them free rein, be prepared for some incredible ideas – students can be extremely creative.

**Fruit Scale Model:** [www.stem.org.uk/elibrary/  
resource/31649](http://www.stem.org.uk/elibrary/resource/31649) (access to activity requires STEM account)

**Toilet Paper Model:** [www.nthelp.com/eer/HOAtpps.  
html](http://www.nthelp.com/eer/HOAtpps.html)

**Plastecine Model:** Using plastecine or modelling clay and bamboo sticks, ask pupils to design and create their own system, focusing on scale.

**Coat Hanger Solar System:** Ask pupils to bring in a coat hanger, and using string/thread and either polystyrene balls or card, create their own model. [https://twitter.  
com/primary\\_sci/status/784696010052427776](https://twitter.com/primary_sci/status/784696010052427776)

**Solar System Around the Sun:** This can be done using polystyrene balls and kebab sticks with each planet coming off of the sun, or this can be done using paper.

#### Other ideas include:

- Cake pops/cupcakes decorated
- Shoebox solar system
- Beads-bracelet
- Quilling
- Hama beads

#### Useful Links:

Animation about the solar system, including demonstration of orbital paths: [https://www.esa.int/  
esaKIDSen/OurUniverse.html](https://www.esa.int/esaKIDSen/OurUniverse.html)

Information about the planets of our solar system: [http://principiaspacediary.org/exploring-solar-  
system/](http://principiaspacediary.org/exploring-solar-system/)