**Planet Distance Activity**

**Materials:** meter sticks, 400 cm heavy string for each group, masking tape

**Procedures:**

* Draw a picture of what they think the solar system looks like.
* Calculate the distance from the model sun to each model planet, you need to calculate a scaling factor.
* Take 400 cm string and measure distance of planet from sun using meter sticks.
* Use pieces of tape to mark planets.
* Draw the planets on computer paper to scale
* Cut them out (include paper for rings and moons)
* Use colored pencils, color the planets as close to their real color as possible. Use photos in books for reference.
* Draw rings around Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune,
* Add the red spot (massive storm) on Jupiter and the Blue-White Spot (massive storm) on Neptune.
* Write the planets name below each planet.
* Draw the correct number of moons around each planet.
* Name the major moons for the planets that have them.
* Use the completed Scale Model to
* **Answer the following Questions:**

1. How did the solar system scale we worked out and your original drawing match?How did they differ?

2. Why do you think the outer planets are so much farther apart than the inner

planets?

3. Is there a correlation between planet size and how far it is from other planets?