

Planet Movements

Procedure

- 1. Measure** Cut a drinking straw so that it is 12 cm long. Thread a piece of string that is 1 m long through the straw.
- 2.** Tie one end of the string to a washer. Wrap the other end of the string around a plastic foam ball and tie it tightly. Then use several pieces of tape to secure the string to the ball.
- 3. Use Models** Hold the straw upright with one hand. Rest the washer in your other hand. Stand away from your classmates. Move the straw in a circular motion so the ball swings in a circle around the straw. **Safety:** You and your classmates must wear goggles while the ball is moving.
- 4. Record Data** On the lines below, describe the motion of the ball.

Conclusion

Write the answers to the questions below.

1. **Infer** What do you think the ball represents in the model?

2. **Use Models** If the ball represents Earth, what does the straw represent?

Investigate More!

Research Use the Internet or the library to research the shape of a planet's path. How does it differ from the shape of the path in your model?