

# PLANET DISTANCE NECKLACES



## MATERIALS

- Marshmallows
- Food dye and small containers
- Water
- Paintbrushes
- String (a fairly long piece)
- Ring shaped foods (Cheerios, Fruit Loops, etc.) or tubular pasta (penne, macaroni, etc.)

## DIRECTIONS

- Gather some small containers or cups of water and add food dye to each to make “paint” for the marshmallows. (This step is optional.)
- Paint the marshmallows to look like the planets. (This step is optional.)
- Using pieces of pasta to represent distances, string pasta and planets. Below is a list of the planets with their distance from the sun in astronomical units, or AU's. One astronomical unit is equal to the average distance from Earth to the Sun. Because some planets are a fraction of an AU from the Sun, use 4 pieces of pasta for each AU.

Planet	Distance from Sun	# of cereal or pasta
Mercury	0.4 AU	2
Venus	0.72 AU	3
Earth	1 AU	4
Mars	1.5 AU	6
Jupiter	5.2 AU	21
Saturn	9.6 AU	38
Uranus	19.2 AU	77
Neptune	30 AU	120
Pluto (dwarf)	39.5 AU	158