

# TASK: MAKE A SOLAR SYSTEM MOBILE

## WHAT'S IN THIS KIT

- 4 x sheets with planets and rockets
- 2x dowels
- Glue stick
- 5m of string

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Scissors
- Colouring pencils or anything you would like to decorate your rockets with e.g. old sweet wrappers, tin foil, tissue paper

### What to do:

First decorate your rocket ships, make them as colourful as you'd like! There are 8 cut outs to make 4 rocket ships, so while decorating them, write something you like about our solar system on one side and you can name the rocket ship mission on another side! So a complete rocket should have a name and something you like! Check out our rocks in space fact sheet to get you started, or explore the solar system more here →



Then, cut out each rocket ship, planet and the sun.

Next, fold your string into 5 equal sections and cut at the fold line. This should leave you with 5 pieces of string that are 1m long. Cut each of these pieces in half so you have 10 pieces that are 50cm long.



### How to tie the dowels together:

Use your own method or follow our instructions below

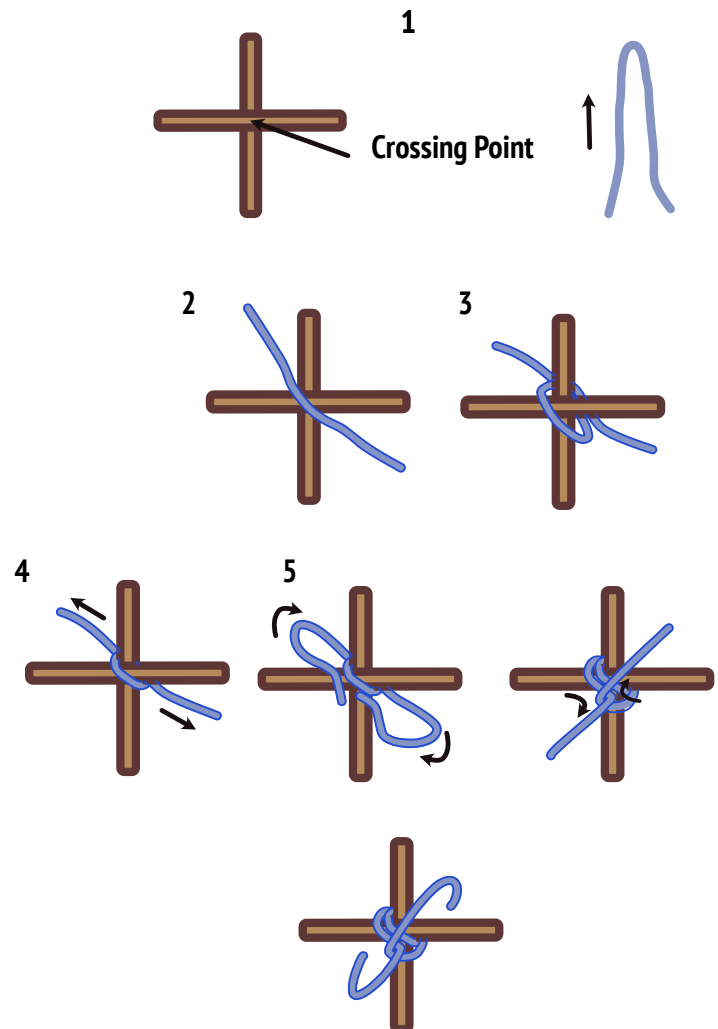
1. To tie the dowels together, first place the dowels in a cross position. Take one of your pieces of string and fold it in half to find its midpoint.
2. Next, place the string diagonally across the dowels. Make sure the mid point lines up with the cross of the dowels.
3. Wrap the ends of the string behind the crossing point
4. Pull the strings tightly whilst holding the dowels in a cross shape. To make this easier, one person can hold the dowels, and one person can tie the string
5. Bring the ends of the string to the front and tie them together just as before in the opposite direction and pull this tight once again
6. Do this as many times as you'd like so you feel it is secure! Try to leave about 10-15cm of string at the end of your last knot. You will use this to hang up your mobile later.

## Explore more!



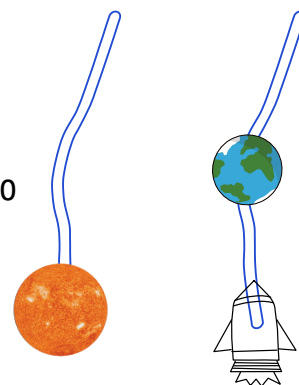
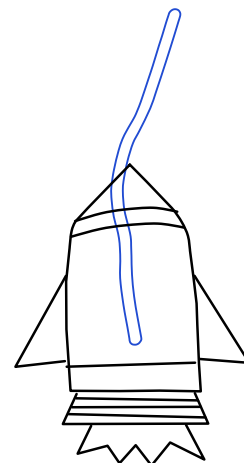
Check out spacescapes, our free exhibition all about the solar system!

Have a look at our website for more fun activities!



### Attaching your rockets and planets:

1. Attach the rockets at the bottom of four of the strings. There are 4 rockets but 8 planets, so make sure you think carefully about which planets you would like to have rockets attached to. Start by gluing the back of each rocket ship, then lie one face down and stick the bottom of the string down the middle. Stick the other rocket ship on top - making sure it is a matching half - so that the string is trapped between two sides!
2. Stick the sun at the bottom of another string, using the same method as above.
3. After this you need to stick on the planets. Do this by sticking them half way down the string - this allows enough space for you to tie the planets to your dowels! So stick the planets on to the left over strings and strings with rockets on them. Make sure you do not put a planet on the sun as you want the planets to be going around the sun.



### Attaching your strings to the dowels:

After this it is time to attach your strings to the dowels. A good tip is to keep the planets a good distance apart as you don't want them to touch as they hang.

First attach the sun to the crossing point, so that the sun is dangling at the bottom. Tie the top of the string around this point. To make this more secure, you can add a dot of glue to where the string is tied to the dowels.

Next attach your planets and rockets to the dowels using the same method. Tie the tops of the strings to the dowel and to make it extra secure add a dot of glue. Start with the planets closest to the sun and work your way out! Put Mercury on the dowels first.

We suggest starting to attach the strings closer to the crossing points and attaching them further outward as you add more on! This will help you space them out! You should end up with two planets on each arm of cross!

