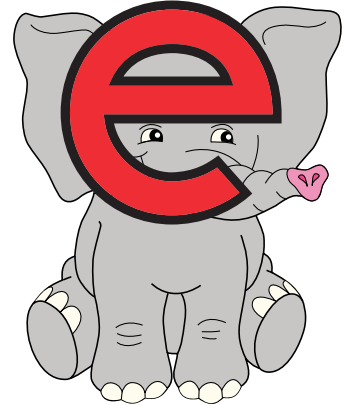


Cross-Curricular: Eddy Elephant's Expanding Universe!

Create your own expanding universe with this excellent space-themed experiment. Just follow the simple steps below!

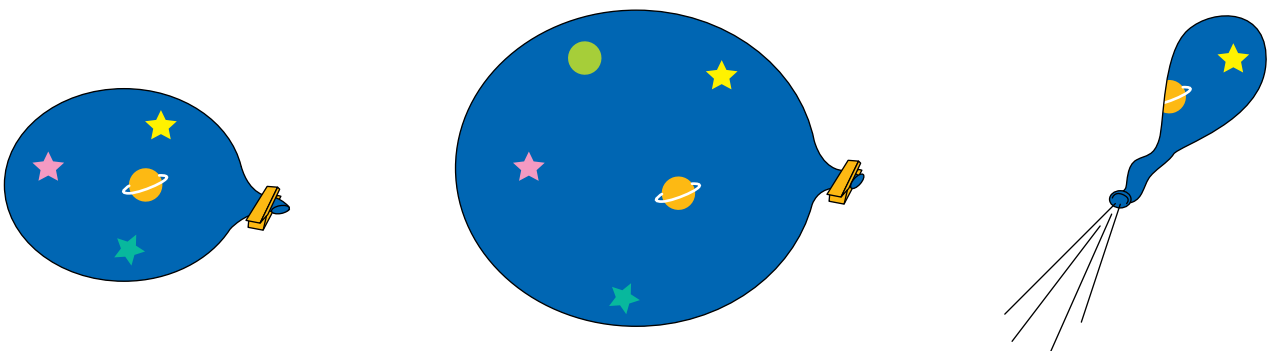
You will need

- A balloon
- A clothes peg (optional)
- Small stickers (stars and planets or any other theme that you like!)



Instructions

1. Blow up the balloon until it is about half full. Pinch the end closed using your clothes peg. Do not tie the balloon up.
2. Stick your stickers onto the balloon. Make sure you cover all of the available space. These stickers will be used to represent the planets of our solar system.
3. Once your stickers have been stuck down well, continue to blow the balloon up to its full size. Pinch the end closed again.
4. Talk about what happened to the 'planets' on the balloon. Did they move closer together, or further apart?
5. Explain that our universe expands in a similar way to the balloon. Planets, stars and galaxies all move further apart as the universe expands and grows.
6. Let go of the end of the balloon (or remove the peg), allowing the air to escape.
7. What happened to the balloon this time? Did it move forwards through the air? This is what happens when a rocket is launched. Hot air is expelled from the back of the rocket, which launches it into space - excellent!



Eddy says...

How many planets are there in our solar system? Which do you think is the biggest?
Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto.

