

## ACTIVITY: Earth-Sun-Moon Movement

### Goal:

Have students act out the motion of the Earth, Sun, and Moon relative to each other to visualize the patterns of movement and to understand the complexity. This activity serves as a review for the motion of these celestial bodies.

### Material:

- 3 t-shirts (Blue, White, Yellow)
- Large open space

### Activity:

- Have 3 students volunteer and give them each a T-shirt.
  - Earth = Blue, Sun = Yellow, Moon = White
- Start with the motion of the Sun. Have the 'Sun' stand in the middle of the open space and ask the students to describe the motion of the Sun. They should describe that the Sun revolves counter clockwise (prompting may be required).
- Add the student who is the Earth and have them act out what other students describe. Again, the rotation and revolution is both counter clockwise.
- Add the Moon. Make sure that the student enacting the Moon stays facing inward, towards the Earth at all times such that the revolution and rotation have the same time period.
- Ask students if this is the whole picture. If they think it is, tell them about the rotation of the galaxy and that the entire galaxy is moving too.
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*Note: Make the point at the end of the exercise that all of the discoveries about the motion of the Earth, Sun, Moon and other planets and stars were ALL made from standing on the surface of the Earth.*

