

How Close Is It?

Nancy Wright, Hayward Unified School District

Teacher Instructions

1. Get two dim light bulbs. You can either use dim LEDs, LED tea lights, or the small incandescent light bulbs from old light bulbs from electricity units.
2. Turn off the lights in the classroom. This activity works best if it is dark. If you don't have curtains or blinds, use dark colored butcher paper to cover the windows.
3. Place one light in a far corner of the classroom (such as on a bookshelf) and have students line up along one wall on the opposite side of the classroom. Ask your students how close the Earth would be if the closest light were the Sun.
4. For the last questions, the distance from the Earth to the Sun is ~150 million km. The distance to the closest stars is trillions of km away!

