

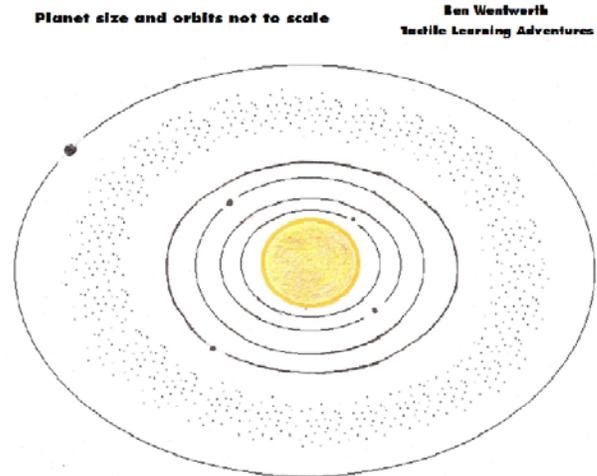
Creating a Quick & Easy Asteroid Belt

Tactile Graphic to use with VI Individuals for Vesta Fiesta Activities

For those groups hosting Vesta Fiesta parties and will be having individuals with visual impairments attending, here is a quick and inexpensive way to create a tactile graphic of the asteroid belt.

Using the template seen at the right, hot glue, puff paint, and card stock to print on, an asteroid belt tactile graphic can be constructed in about 45

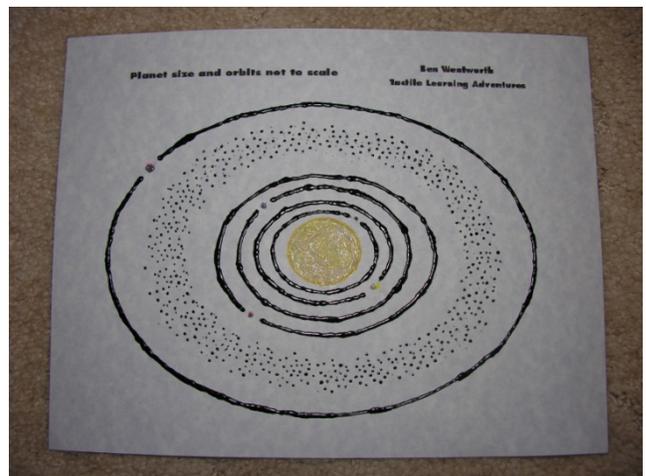
minutes. The puff paint needs to dry for a few hours before using the graphic, so it is best to plan to make the graphic at least a day before your event.



Start by completely covering the sun with a swirling motion of hot glue. This will illustrate the volatile surface of the sun. The sun has been colored yellow for those individuals with low vision to see as well as feel the sun on the graphic. Place a small dot of hot glue on each of the planet locations.

Next, starting with Mercury's orbit, cover each orbital path on the template with a heavy application of puff paint. If the paint is put on too sparingly, it will not be easily felt as it will compress as it dries. When all of the orbits puff painted, you are ready to add the asteroids.

The puff paint tends to come out of the bottle in too much quantity to create small asteroids. To alleviate this problem, place a pencil erasure amount of puff paint on a 3x5 index card and use a tooth pick to dip and touch the template with the puff paint to make the asteroids. This way the asteroids do not end up larger than your planets. When completed, put your graphic in a safe place so it will not be touched before the paint dries and you end up with a smudged creation. Lacking a written descriptive narrative to accompany this

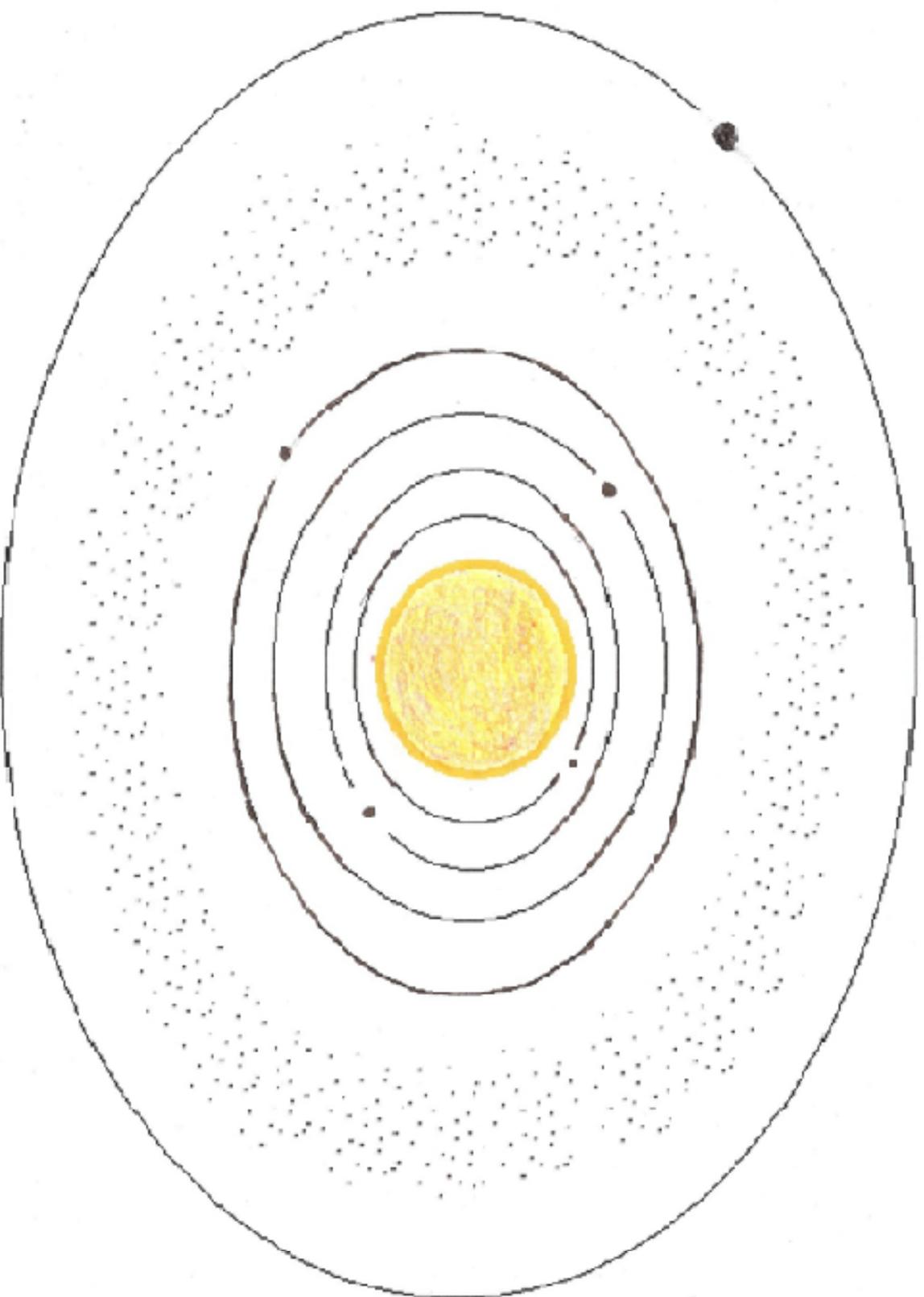


graphic, be sure you provide a detailed verbal explanation when handing out the graphic. This will help fingers provide a vivid mind's eye picture for those exploring the tactile graphic.

Here's to a great Vesta Fiesta party!

Ben Wentworth III – Tactile Learning Adventures

Planet size and orbits not to scale



**Ben Wentworth
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