

Exploring Orbits

Introduction

In 1609, the German mathematician and astronomer Johannes Kepler deciphered a major puzzle of the solar system. The strange back-and-forth motions of the planets in the sky were nearly impossible to predict until Kepler figured out the true shapes of the planetary orbits around the sun. Orbits were always believed to be circular, but Kepler used mathematics to discover they were actually **elliptical**.

An **ellipse** is an oval that is characterized by two quantities. The first quantity is the width of the ellipse, which is called the **major axis**. The second quantity is called the **eccentricity**, which is a measure of how stretched out the ellipse is. Eccentricity is defined by the distance between two mathematically determined points within the ellipse called the **foci**.

For planets, one focus of their orbital ellipse is the sun. The other is an empty point in space. The orbit of each planet is an ellipse, but each planet's elliptical orbit has different major axes and eccentricities. Once Kepler understood the proper nature of orbits, the movements of the planets in the sky could be predicted with precision.

In this investigation, you will draw ellipses, calculate their eccentricities, observe an interesting property of ellipses, and compare the ellipses you draw with the orbital eccentricities of Earth and other planets in the solar system.



Figure 1

Problem

What do the elliptical orbits of the planets look like?

Pre-Lab Discussion

Read the entire investigation. Then work with a partner to answer the following questions.

1. Predicting: Each planet's orbit is shaped like an ellipse. Predict whether the shapes of the planet's orbits will be more circular or more elongated. _____

2. Applying Concepts: What is the one thing that the elliptical orbits of all planets, asteroids, and most comets have in common? _____

Lab Manual Exploring Orbits

**United States. National Aeronautics
and Space Administration**



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Exploring Physical Anthropology: Lab Manual and Workbook, 4e Suzanne E Walker Pacheco, 2022-01-14 Exploring Physical Anthropology is a comprehensive full color lab manual intended for an introductory laboratory course in physical anthropology It can also serve as a supplementary workbook for a lecture class particularly in the absence of a laboratory offering This laboratory manual enables a hands on approach to learning about the evolutionary processes that resulted in humans through the use of numerous examples and exercises It offers a solid grounding in the main areas of an introductory physical anthropology lab course genetics evolutionary forces human osteology forensic anthropology comparative functional skeletal anatomy primate behavior paleoanthropology and modern human biological variation *Exploring the Universe: A Laboratory Guide for Astronomy* Mike D. Reynolds, Michael E. Bakich, 2015-01-01 Astronomy is a fun and challenging science for students This manual is intended for one and two semester astronomy courses and uses hands on engaging activities to get students looking at the sky and developing a lifelong interest in astronomy *Laboratory Manual for Clinical Anatomy and Physiology for Veterinary Technicians* Thomas P. Colville, Joanna M. Bassert, 2015-03-31 Learn to apply your A P learning in the lab setting with Colville and Bassert's Lab Manual for Clinical Anatomy and Physiology for Veterinary Technicians 3rd Edition This practical laboratory resource features a variety of activities such as crossword puzzles terminology exercises illustration identification and labeling case presentations and more to help reinforce your understanding of veterinary anatomy and physiology The lab manual also features vivid illustrations lists of terms and structures to be identified and step by step dissection guides to walk you through the dissection process Clinically oriented learning exercises help readers become familiar with the language of anatomy and physiology as you identify structures and learn concepts Clear step by step dissection instructions for complex organs such as the heart familiarize readers with the dissection process in a very visual easy to understand format Learning objectives the clinical significance of the content and lists of terms and structures to be identified appear at the beginning of each chapter Comprehensive glossary appears at the end of the lab manual and provides accurate concise High quality full color illustrations provides a firm understanding of the details of anatomic structure Review activities and study exercises are included in every chapter to reinforce important information Clinical Application boxes are threaded throughout the lab manual and demonstrate the clinical relevance of anatomic and physiologic principles Companion Evolve site includes answers to the Test Yourself questions in the textbook and crossword puzzles NEW Overview at a Glance sections outline the main proficiencies of each chapter and include a list of all exercises in the chapter *Exploring the Unknown, Volume VII, NASA SP-2008-4407, 2008, **, 2009 **Laboratory Manual for Clinical Anatomy and Physiology for Veterinary Technicians - E-Book** Thomas P. Colville, Joanna M. Bassert, 2023-01-18 Learn to apply your A P learning in the lab setting with the Laboratory Manual for Clinical Anatomy and Physiology for Veterinary Technicians 4th Edition This practical laboratory resource features a variety of activities such as

terminology exercises illustration identification and labelling case presentations and more to help reinforce your understanding of veterinary anatomy and physiology The laboratory manual also features vivid illustrations lists of terms and structures to be identified and step by step dissection guides to walk you through the dissection process Clinically oriented learning exercises introduce you to the language of anatomy and physiology as you identify structures and learn concepts Clear step by step dissection instructions for complex organs such as the heart familiarize you with the dissection process in a very visual easy to understand format Learning objectives the clinical significance of the content and lists of terms and structures to be identified appear at the beginning of each chapter Review activities and study exercises are included in every chapter to reinforce important information High quality full color illustrations provide a solid understanding of the details of anatomic structure

Prentice Hall Physical Science Concepts in Action Program Planner National Chemistry Physics Earth Science ,2003-11 Prentice Hall Physical Science Concepts in Action helps students make the important connection between the science they read and what they experience every day Relevant content lively explorations and a wealth of hands on activities take students understanding of science beyond the page and into the world around them Now includes even more technology tools and activities to support differentiated instruction Exploring the Unknown

,1995 **Exploring the Unknown: Selected Documents in the History of the U.S. Civil Space Program, Volume VII** United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration,2008-12-04 This volume contains over 100 key documents many of which are published for the first time Each is introduced by a headnote providing context bibliographical details and background information necessary to understand the document These are organized into two chapters each beginning with an essay that keys the documents to major events in the history Exploring the Unknown: Human spaceflight ,1995

Exploring the Living Universe United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Life Sciences Strategic Planning Study Committee,1988 **Orbit** ,1974 *Exploring the Universe* ,1993 **Chambers's Encyclopædia: GOO to LAB** ,1886 **The United States Government Manual** ,1987 **The United States Government Manual** United States. Office of the Federal Register,1983 Chambers's Encyclopædia: Goo.-Lab ,1880 **Digital Satellite Navigation and Geophysics** Ivan G. Petrovski,Toshiaki Tsujii,2012-03-29 Your hands on guide to GNSS theory and applications with practical case studies and bundled real time software receiver and signal simulator **Technology for Large Space Systems** ,1986 *Monthly Catalogue, United States Public Documents* ,1995 *Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications* ,1995

Unveiling the Magic of Words: A Report on "**Lab Manual Exploring Orbits**"

In some sort of defined by information and interconnectivity, the enchanting power of words has acquired unparalleled significance. Their ability to kindle emotions, provoke contemplation, and ignite transformative change is really awe-inspiring. Enter the realm of "**Lab Manual Exploring Orbits**," a mesmerizing literary masterpiece penned by a distinguished author, guiding readers on a profound journey to unravel the secrets and potential hidden within every word. In this critique, we shall delve to the book is central themes, examine its distinctive writing style, and assess its profound impact on the souls of its readers.

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