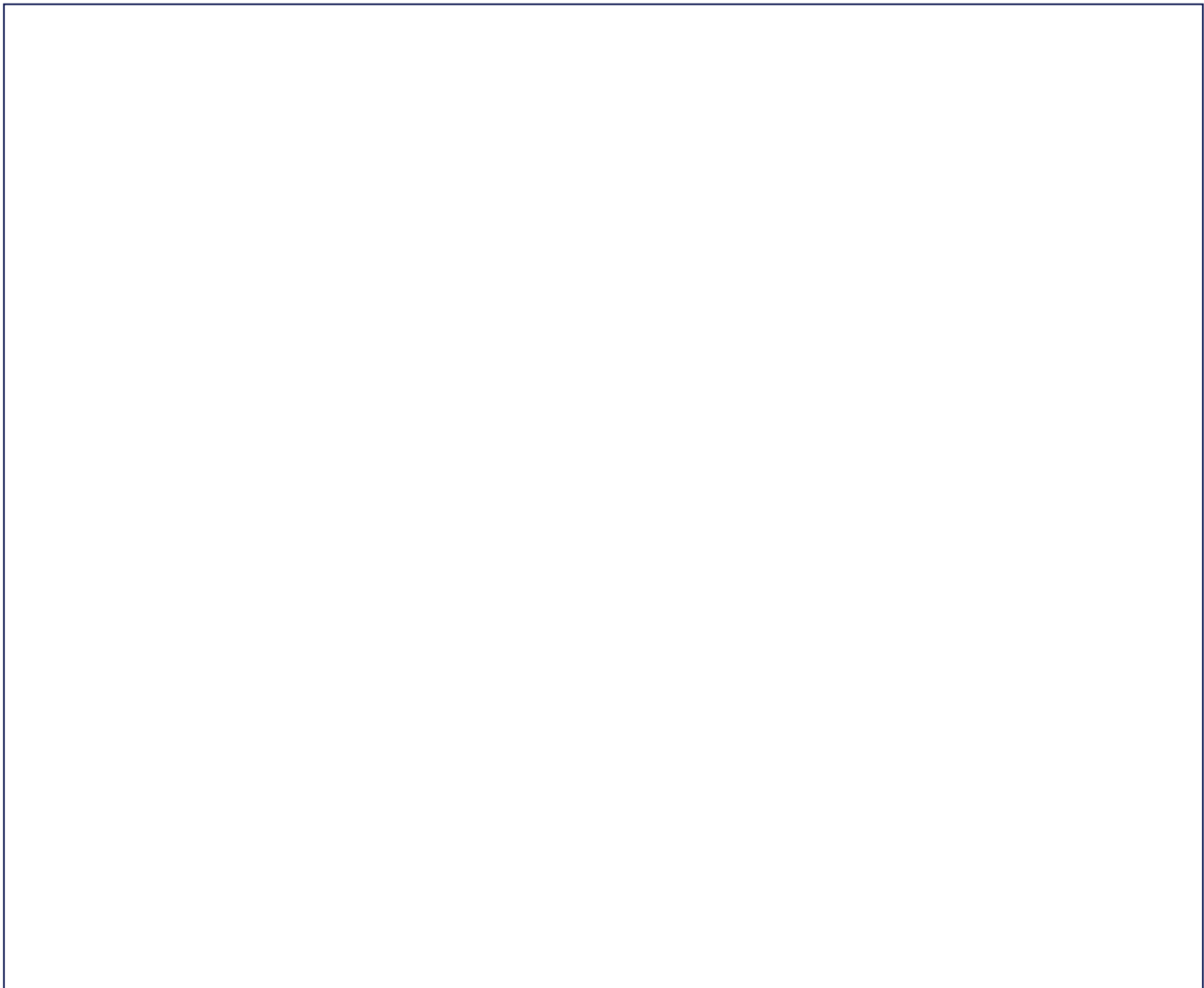


Nova's Solar System Sketchpad

Learning objective: To identify and describe the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the Sun in the solar system.

Follow the drawing prompt to create your own model of the solar system. Use your knowledge of space to label the key features accurately.

Draw: Draw a large, bright Sun in the center of your page. Around the Sun, draw at least four planetary orbits as clear, circular lines. Place the Earth on one of these lines, ensuring it is tilted slightly to represent its axis. Use clear, neat lines and add color to distinguish between the hot Sun and the cooler planets. Include a small arrow on each orbit line to show the direction of movement.



Label words: Sun · Earth · Orbit · Axis · Solar System · Planet · Gravity

Steps:

1. Explain why the Earth experiences day and night as it travels around the Sun.
2. Label the path that the Earth takes around the Sun on your drawing.
3. How long does it take for the Earth to complete one full orbit of the Sun?
4. List two planets that are closer to the Sun than the Earth.
5. Why do you think the Sun appears much larger than other stars in the sky?