



Exploring the Solar System with Rubin EPO - Part 2

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Justine Schaen, NSF's NOIRLab

Slack [#day4-thu-multislot-exploring-solar-system-epo](#)

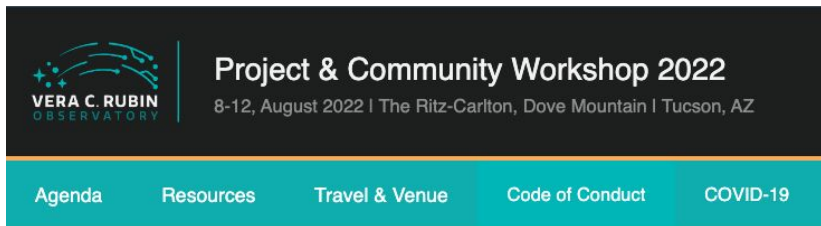


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

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Friendly reminders - CoC & Covid







[Home](#) » [Code of Conduct](#)

Code of Conduct

Harassment and unprofessional conduct (including the use of offensive language) of any kind is not permitted at any time and should be reported.

Rubin Observatory adheres to the principles of kindness, trust, respect, diversity, and inclusiveness in order to provide a learning environment that produces rigor and excellence.



Check name-tags for these contact comfort level stickers.

Use the confidential email rubin2022-covid@lists.lsst.org to request a test, report your test results, or ask questions.

Thank you for masking indoors!

Reporting bullying, harassment, or aggression.

The Rubin 2022 Organizing Committee has appointed designated contacts:

- Ranpal Gill (rgill@lsst.org)
- Andrew Connolly (ajc@astro.washington.edu)
- Melissa Graham (mlg3k@uw.edu)

Contact via email, Slack, or the Community Forum.

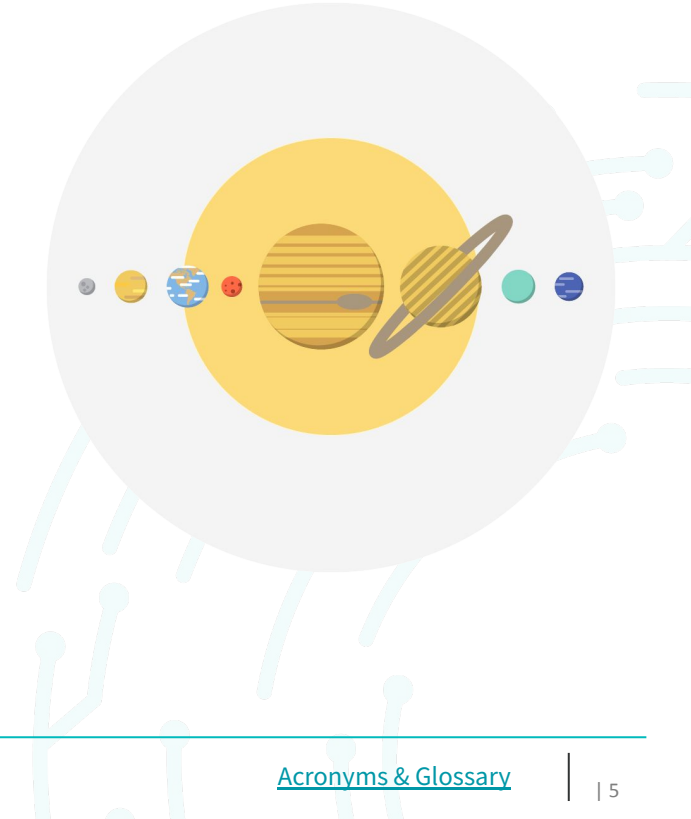
Goals of the Workshop

1. To introduce the Rubin Education program design (Part 1)
2. To unpack all the elements of an investigation (Parts 1 & 2)
3. To show how to navigate through an investigation and implement its features (Part 2)

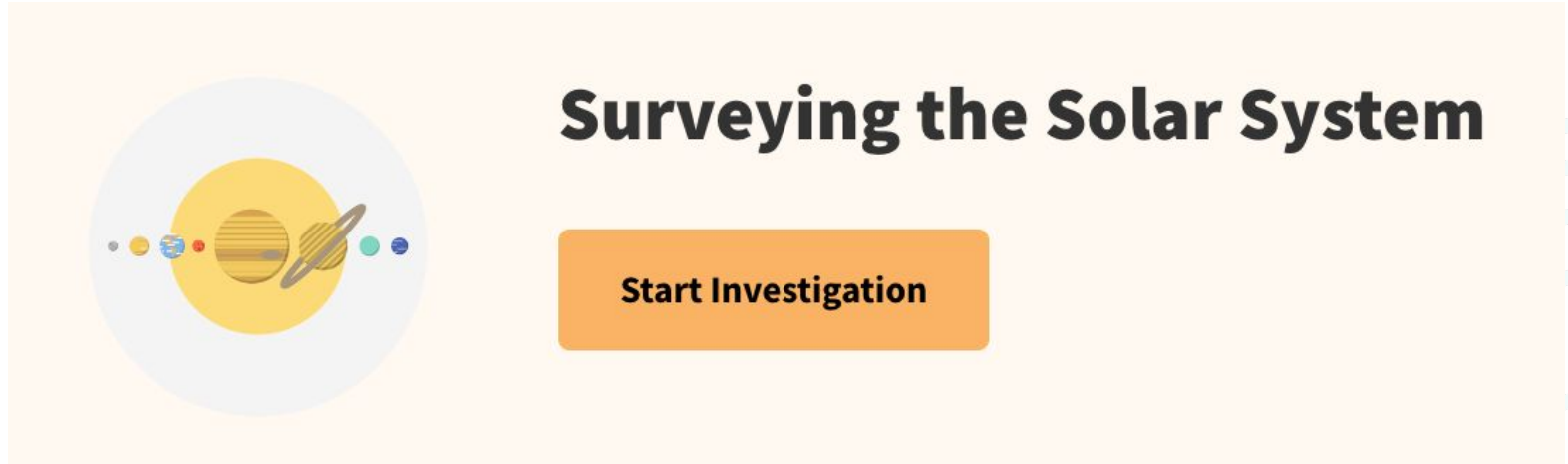
1. Program Overview
2. Navigating the Education Website
 - Accessing Investigations & Support Materials
 - Website Features
3. Getting Started with the Investigation
 - Pre-Test
 - Phenomenon

Surveying the Solar System

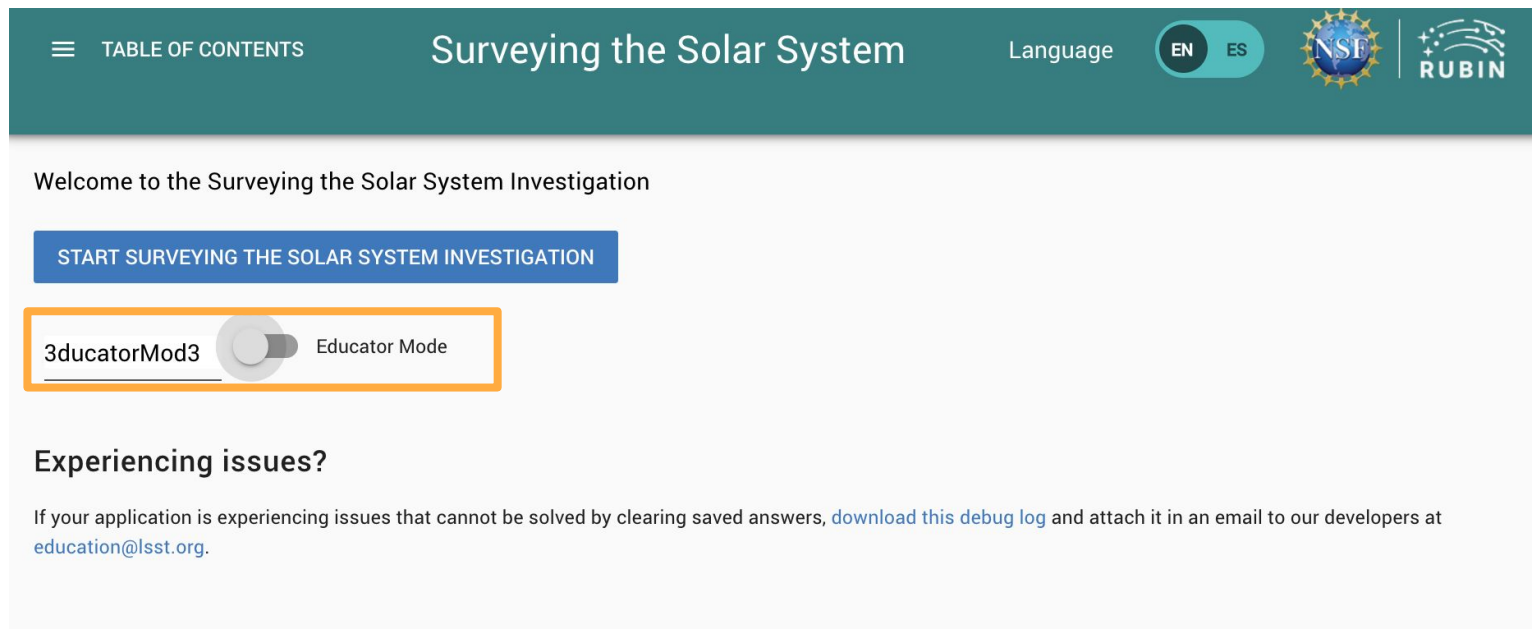
1. Administer Pre-Test ✓
2. Phenomenon ✓
3. Investigation
 - Formative Assessment Opportunities
 - General Understanding Checks
 - Revisiting Phenomenon
 - Key Assessment Questions
4. Summative Assessment
5. Administer Post Test to measure gains



Work collaboratively on the investigation



<https://surveyingthesolarsystem.netlify.app/>



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Surveying the Solar System

Language **EN** ES

NSF RUBIN

Welcome to the Surveying the Solar System Investigation

START SURVEYING THE SOLAR SYSTEM INVESTIGATION

3ducatorMod3 ☒ Educator Mode

Experiencing issues?

If your application is experiencing issues that cannot be solved by clearing saved answers, [download this debug log](#) and attach it in an email to our developers at education@lsst.org.

Passphrase **3ducatorMod3**

Work collaboratively on the investigation

STOP at the First Checkpoint
Page 12

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Language

EN ES

NST

RUBIN

Distributions of Solar System Objects

Now you will explore a histogram of the number of all small Solar System objects on the y-axis vs. size of orbit on the x-axis.

Note: the scale of the y-axis changes for each of the histograms.

Click on each icon found to the left of the histogram to change the group.

21. Based on the histogram, rank the total number of small Solar System objects in each group, from most to least:

22. Rubin Observatory will make thousands of observations of our Solar System over the next decade. Do you think the number of any of these groups will change substantially? Which one(s), and why?

Checkpoint

NEO Orbit Sizes

3,000

2,500

2,000

1,500

1,000

500

0

0.25

0.5

0.75

1.0

1.25

1.5

1.75

2.0

2.25

2.5

2.75

3.0

3.25

3.5

3.75

4.0

4.25

4.5

4.75

5.0

5.25

5.5

5.75

6.0

6.25

6.5

6.75

7.0

7.25

7.5

7.75

8.0

Number of NEOs

NEO Orbit Sizes (au)

First Checkpoint (p.12)

1. Which group of objects have orbits closest to the Earth?

NEOs **A**

MBAs **B**

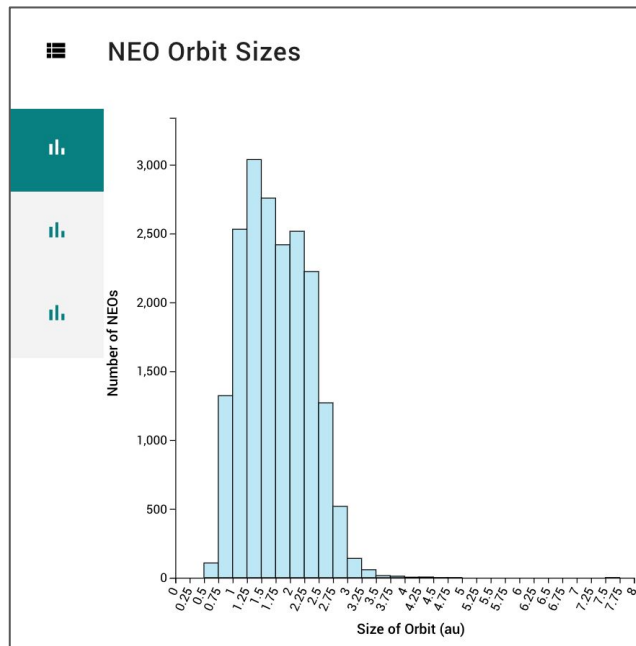
TNOs **C**

Comets **D**

First Checkpoint (p.12)

1. Which group of objects have orbits closest to the Earth?

A NEOs



First Checkpoint (p.12)

1. Which group of objects have orbits closest to the Earth?
NEOs
2. Which group of objects have orbits between Mars and Jupiter?

NEOs

A

MBAs

B

TNOs

C

Comets

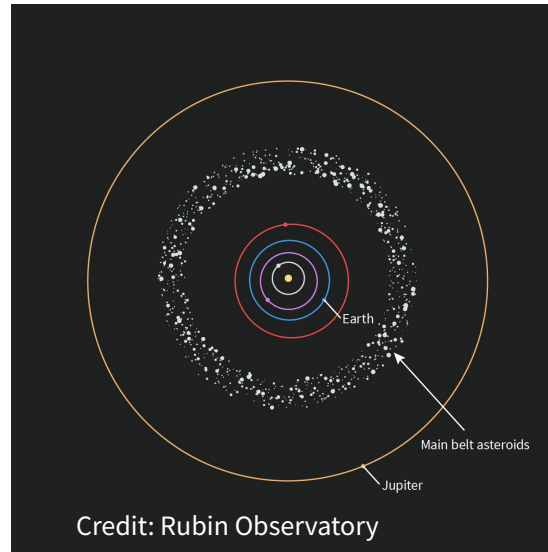
D

First Checkpoint (p.12)

1. Which group of objects have orbits closest to the Earth?
2. Which group of objects have orbits between Mars and Jupiter?

NEOs

B MBAs



First Checkpoint (p.12)

1. Which group of objects have orbits closest to the Earth?

NEOs

2. Which group of objects have orbits between Mars and Jupiter?

MBAs

3. Which group of objects has the greatest range of orbit sizes and inclinations?

NEOs

A

MBAs

B

TNOs

C

Comets

D

First Checkpoint (p.12)

1. Which group of objects have orbits closest to the Earth?

NEOs

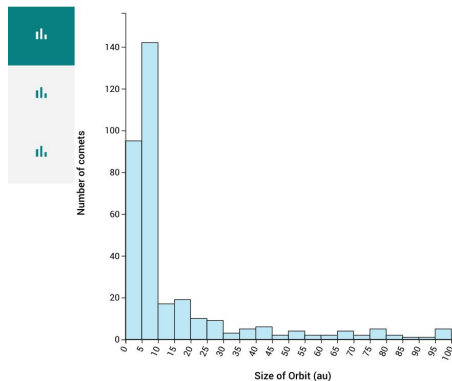
2. Which group of objects have orbits between Mars and Jupiter?

MBAs

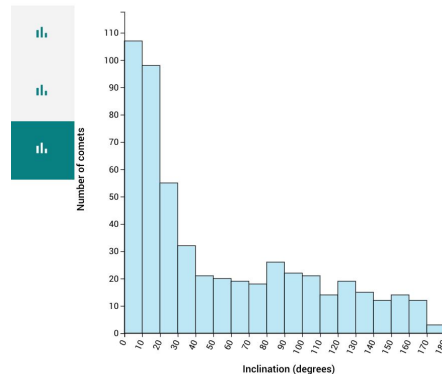
3. Which group of objects has the greatest range of orbit sizes and inclinations?

D Comets

Comet Orbit Sizes



Comet Inclinations

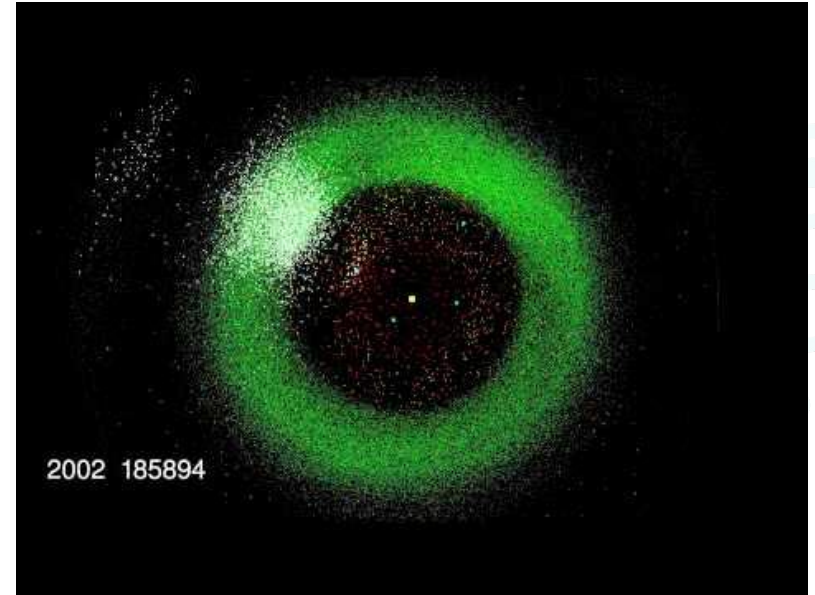


First Checkpoint (p.12)

Revisit Phenomenon

The video did not include TNOs and Comets.

Draw a top and side view model of what the Solar System would look like, including TNOs and Comets.



First Checkpoint (p.12)

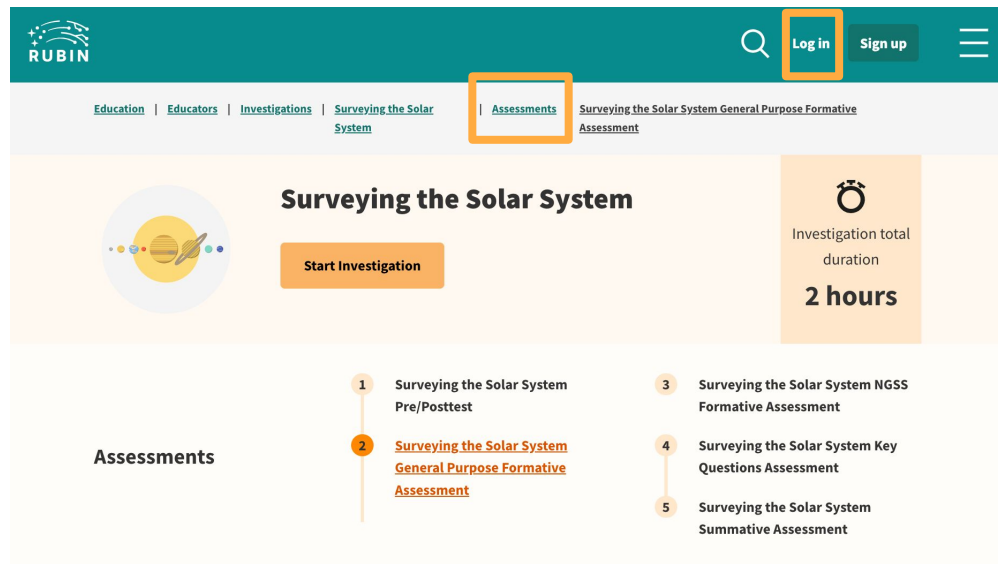
Making Sense of the Phenomenon Possible Answers

Models should indicate:

- **Orbit sizes beyond Neptune for TNOs.**
- **Orbits within both the inner and outer Solar System for comets.**
- **More eccentric orbits for comets.**
- **Higher inclinations for comets.**

Accessing the Formative Assessments

1. Administer Pre-Test
2. Phenomenon
3. Investigation
 - Formative Assessment Opportunities
 - General Understanding Checks
 - Revisiting Phenomenon



Assessments


1. Surveying the Solar System Pre/Posttest
2. **Surveying the Solar System General Purpose Formative Assessment**
3. Surveying the Solar System NGSS Formative Assessment
4. Surveying the Solar System Key Questions Assessment
5. Surveying the Solar System Summative Assessment

Surveying the Solar System General Purpose Formative Assessment

The table below is correlated to checkpoints in the investigation, which are places where students should have acquired key skills and understandings that are needed in the subsequent sections. Sample questions with answers in bold are listed below.

Transition to Section 2

Surveying the Solar System: Page 13 of 32



Congratulations!

You've identified the orbital properties of the four main groups of small Solar System objects.

Next, you will use these characteristics to classify four unknown objects and learn how the orbits of small bodies provide evidence for the formation of the Solar System.

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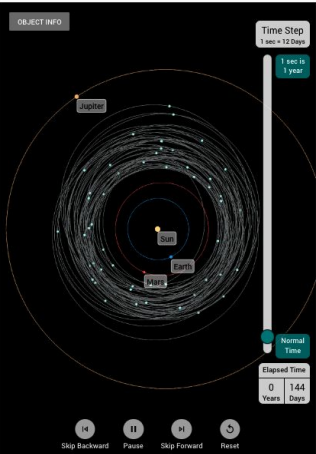
Identifying Groups of Solar System Objects - 2

Group	Size of Orbit	Eccentricity	Inclination	Direction of Orbit
NEOs				
MBAs				
TNOs				
Comets				

Use the Orbit Viewer to explore this group.

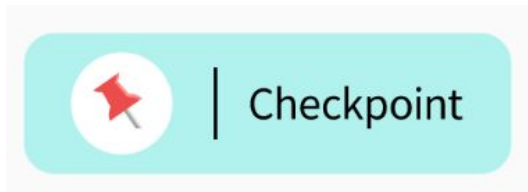
24. Refer to your table of observations from the previous section. Which of the four groups do you think this is? Explain your reasoning in terms of the unique set of orbital properties that defines this group of objects.

Orbit Viewer



Second Checkpoint (p.20)

What orbital characteristic (and value) allows you to know that the majority of all Solar System objects orbit the Sun in the same plane as the planets and orbit the Sun in the same direction as the planets?



Eccentricity, less than 0.5

A

Inclination, greater than 90°

B

Eccentricity, greater than 0.5

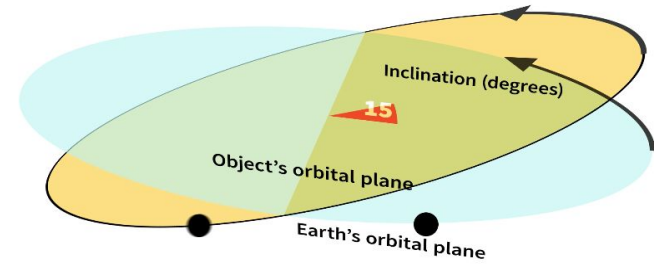
C

Inclination, less than 90°

D

Second Checkpoint (p.20)

What orbital characteristic (and value) allows you to know that the majority of all Solar System objects orbit the Sun in the same plane as the planets and orbit the Sun in the same direction as the planets?



$$i=15^{\circ}$$

D Inclination, less than 90°

Transition to Final Section

- Randomized newly-detected Solar System objects
- Continue working until **q. 50** - let us know when you get here

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Classifying Newly Detected Solar System Objects - 1

Group	Size of Orbit	Eccentricity	Inclination	Direction of Orbit
NEOs				
MBAs				
TNOs				
Comets				

Many small Solar System objects have been recently discovered by Rubin Observatory. You now have the chance to apply what you have learned to classify three such objects. Your choices for classifying each object are:

- MBA
- TNO
- NEO
- Comet
- None of the above

Use the orbital properties in the table you constructed above to help you determine which group this newly discovered object belongs to.

33. What is this object's name?

34. What type of object is this?

Select

35. Explain why you chose this type. What data/evidence supports your choice?

Orbit Viewer

HIDE INFO

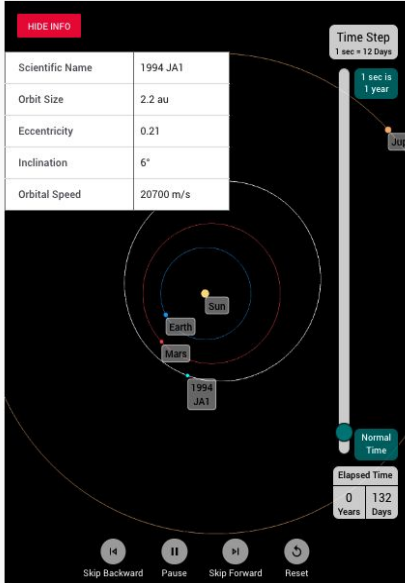
Scientific Name	1994 JA1
Orbit Size	2.2 au
Eccentricity	0.21
Inclination	6°
Orbital Speed	20700 m/s

Time Step
1 sec = 12 Days
1 sec is 1 year

Normal Time

Elapsed Time
0 Years 132 Days

Skip Backward Pause Skip Forward Reset



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Questions (q. 49 - 51)

- Student make connections to their own experiences.
- How would you use these questions in your settings?

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Putting it all Together

48. Which orbital characteristic(s) makes these objects different from the other four groups of objects you studied earlier? Explain.

49. You are presenting the findings of your science team at an international science conference and are sharing for the first time the name you selected for your newly discovered group of solar system objects. What name do you propose?

50. Provide an explanation that defends why you chose this name.


51. Your team is designing its media strategy to bring the greatest awareness to this discovery. How would you communicate your findings?

Group	Size of Orbit	Eccentricity	Inclination	Direction of Orbit
NEOs				
MBAs				
TNOs				
Comets				





New Group Property	Range	Most Common
Orbit Size (au)		
Eccentricity		
Inclination°		

Saving Work

- Save your work
 - Temporary Issue until Student Account Feature is Available
- Strategies for turning in PDF

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Surveying the Solar System

Language    

48. Which orbital characteristic(s) makes these objects different from the other four groups of objects you studied earlier? Explain.

Answer not provided

49. You are presenting the findings of your science team at an international science conference and are sharing for the first time the name you selected for your newly discovered group of solar system objects. What name do you propose?

Answer not provided

50. Provide an explanation that defends why you chose this name.

Answer not provided

51. Your team is designing its media strategy to bring the greatest awareness to this discovery. How would you communicate your findings?

Answer not provided

52. The asteroid 'Oumuamua and comet Borisov were discovered while they were passing through our Solar System, but each came from different solar systems. Based on what you have learned about gravitational interactions, provide an explanation for how these objects were able to leave their solar systems.

Answer not provided

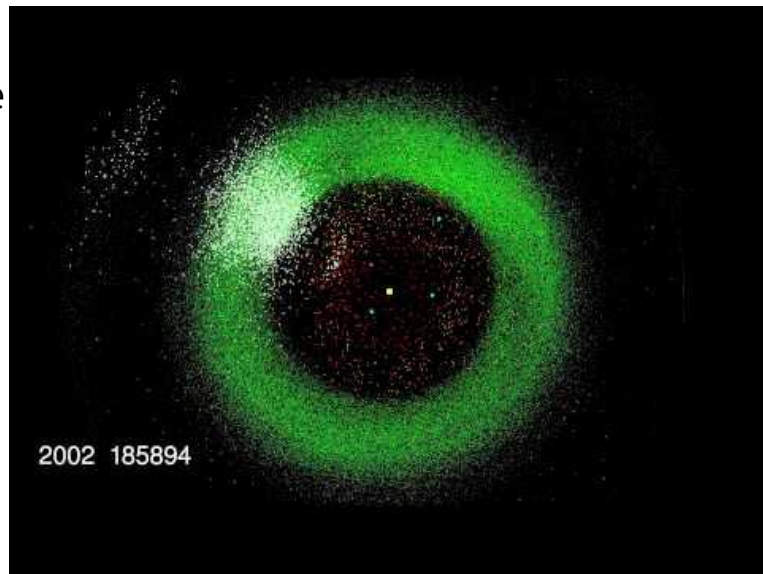
53. Comets often come very close to the Sun during their orbits. Comets are able to remain icy even after a close trip around the Sun. Explain how this can happen based on what you know about the changing speed of the comet during its orbit and the amount of time it spends near the Sun.

Answer not provided

PRINT YOUR ANSWERS

Making Sense of the Phenomenon

- Predict how the video would look different if it were to be updated in 2030, including TNOs and comets.
- There is a group of yellow objects that become more apparent towards the end of the asteroid discovery video. These yellow objects are different from NEOs, MBAs, TNOs, and comets. Make a claim based on orbital property evidence to defend how these yellow objects are different.



Key Assessment Questions

1. Administer Pre Test (Formal Education Setting)
2. Phenomenon
3. Investigation
 - Formative Assessment Opportunities
 - General Understanding Checks
 - Revisiting Phenomenon
 - Key Assessment Questions

Investigation Key Questions Assessment

The table below provides opportunities to assess key investigation performance expectations. The key assessment questions (on each student's answer sheet) can be used to quickly and effectively assess student understanding without having to grade the entire investigation. It is up to the teacher's discretion to decide which row(s) to assess and how to provide timely and meaningful feedback.

Dimensions	Investigation Performance Expectations	Opportunities for Assessment
Science and Engineering Practice Analyzing and Interpreting Data Developing and Using Models Disciplinary Core Idea MS-ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System Crosscutting Concept Patterns	Students analyze and interpret graphs and models to identify patterns in the characteristics of small groups of Solar System objects.	Students first show their understanding of the characteristics of small groups of Solar System objects in their answers to questions 19 and 20 , and the table after question 20 (as it appears in the student answer pdf). Another opportunity to assess this occurs when students are asked to analyze the orbital properties of newly detected Solar System objects and record the object type, and evidence for their classifications in the table after question 41 (as it appears in the student answer pdf).
Science and Engineering Practice Analyzing and Interpreting Data Developing and Using Models Disciplinary Core Idea MS-ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System Crosscutting Concept Patterns	Students use a histogram to observe patterns and provide evidence for the formation of the Solar System.	Students analyze an inclination histogram to find orbital patterns for small Solar System objects, and convey their understanding of the formation of the Solar System in the responses to questions 28-30 .
Science and Engineering Practice Analyzing and Interpreting Data Disciplinary Core Idea HS-ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System PS2.A: Forces and Motion PS2.B: Types of Interactions Crosscutting Concept Patterns	Students predict and interpret the motions of small Solar System objects to identify patterns and provide evidence for how their orbits may have been altered due to gravitational interactions with other objects.	Students are asked to reason about the changes in an object's orbit related to how gravitational forces are affected by the masses and distances between interacting objects. This can be assessed with students responses to questions 31, 32, 52 and 53 .

Key Assessment Questions

Investigation Key Questions Assessment

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Key Assessment Questions

Summative Assessment

1. Administer Pre Test (Formal Education Setting)
2. Phenomenon
3. Investigation
 - Formative Assessment Opportunities
 - General Understanding Checks
 - Revisiting Phenomenon
 - Key Assessment Questions
4. Summative Assessment

Summative Assessment & Scoring Guide

Surveying the Solar System Summative Assessment

Introduction

Three new Solar System objects (A, B, and C) have been discovered by Rubin Observatory and their orbital properties are provided in the table below.

	Semi-Major Axis (au)	Eccentricity	Inclination (°)
Object A	2.5	.1	5
Object B	10	.9	130
Object C	42	.3	10

Model of the Three New Solar System Objects

Provide a sketch of the Solar System that illustrates the orbital properties of the three objects (A, B and C). Your sketch must include the Sun and Mars, Jupiter, and Neptune. Be sure to label the three orbits you draw (A, B, and C).

Top View	Side View

Surveying the Solar System

Students use **models** and **data** to identify **spatial** and **physical similarities and differences** between **groups of small Solar System objects** and their **orbital properties**, then **identify patterns** in their **data** to **classify** newly-discovered objects.

Level	Performance Expectations	Possible Student Responses
4 Exceeds	In addition to meeting level 3 performance expectations, the student model and explanations include information that demonstrates an advanced understanding of the topic which goes beyond the learning goals of the investigation.	<p>Student asserts that Object B orbits in an opposite direction to the planets in the Solar System based on its inclination.</p> <p>Student asserts that Object B does not provide evidence to support the solar nebula theory.</p> <p>Student argues that Object B likely has experienced significant gravitational interactions with other objects in the Solar System causing its orbit to be highly elliptical and highly inclined.</p> <p>Student drawing demonstrated an advanced understanding of size and scale in the Solar System.</p>
3 Meets	<p>Student analyzes and interprets data to construct an accurate model representing each of the newly discovered objects':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orbit size • Eccentricity • Inclination <p>Student identifies patterns in the newly discovered objects to accurately classify the objects as NEOs, MBAs, TNOs, comets, or other, and is able to explain the reasoning behind their classification of the newly discovered objects based on orbital property evidence.</p>	See answer key.
2 Approaches	Student analyzes and interprets data to construct a model which contains an error	Student incorrectly models inclination with all objects drawn on the same

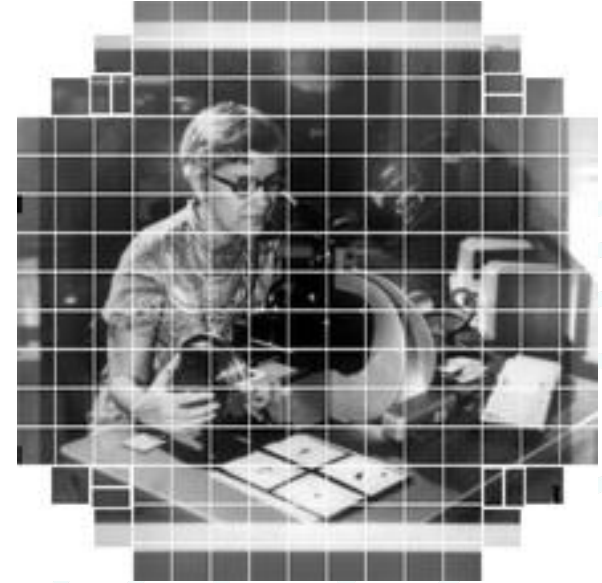
Summative Assessment

Post Assessment

1. Administer Pre Test (Formal Education Setting)
2. Phenomenon
3. Investigation
 - Formative Assessment Opportunities
 - General Understanding Checks
 - Revisiting Phenomenon
 - Key Assessment Questions
4. Summative Assessment
5. Administer Post Test to measure gains

Workshop Reflection & Discussion

- PIP/Reflection
- Remaining Thoughts and Questions



Join our Community of Practice!

Facebook: [Rubin Observatory Educators](#)

Email discussion list: Contact education@lsst.org
or indicate your preference on the workshop
evaluation to join the list.

Thank you for attending our workshop!

Contact us at education@lsst.org

Please take a few minutes to complete our workshop evaluation:

<https://ls.st/2022>

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