

**Chapter 13**

Use with Section 2

**ENRICHMENT****• The Solar System****Model Planets**

Read the following information. Then answer the questions.

What planet fascinates you most? You've read about the huge whirlwind on Jupiter, the dazzling rings around Saturn, and the polar ice caps on Mars. Which planet would you like to know more about? Here you'll have a chance to learn more about a planet.

**Materials**  

- 1 plastic foam ball 150–200 mm in diameter
- smaller plastic foam balls
- different-colored paints
- brushes
- glue
- clay

**Procedure**

1. Choose one of the nine planets in our solar system.
2. Research the planet you chose using encyclopedias, books, science magazines, and other sources.
3. Make a model of your planet using the plastic foam ball. What color is your planet? Paint the ball and make it look like the planet you chose. Does your planet have mountains or craters? Use modeling clay to make the formations on your planet. If your planet has moons, then model these using the smaller plastic foam balls.
4. Copy these table headings on a separate sheet: planet, diameter, temperature, distance from the sun, surface temperatures, number of moons or satellites, elements or gases in atmosphere, distinctive features. Complete the table by recording information about your planet as you conduct your research.

**Applying Problem-Solving Skills**

1. Could human beings land on the surface of the planet you chose?

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2. What precautions or equipment would they need if it was possible to land on the planet?

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