



MiniLab

LESSON 1: 10 minutes

What keeps Earth in orbit?

Why does Earth move around the Sun and not fly off into space?

Procedure

1. Read and complete a lab safety form.
2. Tie a piece of **strong thread** securely to a **plastic, slotted golf ball**.
3. Swing the ball in a horizontal circle above your head. Record your observations in the Data and Observations section below.

Data and Observations

Analyze and Conclude

1. **Predict** what would happen if you let go of the thread.

2.  **Key Concept** Which part of the experiment represents the force of gravity between Earth and the Sun?
