

Stars in a Sensory Bottle

Relax and imagine the solar system in a vast universe!



Materials:

Sturdy transparent plastic bottle or jar, glitter, sequins (star-shaped or round), heavy tape or glue.

Liquid to fill bottle:

- water and food coloring/ tempera paint (water-based) **OR**
- mineral oil and candy decorating dye (oil-based)

Instructions:

Step 1: Clean your bottle or jar thoroughly to avoid growing mold.

Step 2: Add glitter and sequins. Suggested quantity: 2-3 teaspoons for a 16-ounce bottle. Adjust to your preference.

Step 3: Fill with your choice of liquid: water or mineral oil. In mineral oil (or baby oil), glitter will stay suspended longer than in water.

Step 4: Dye your liquid with a blue color. If you used water, add a few drops of food coloring, liquid watercolor, or tempera paint. If you used mineral oil, use an oil-based dye, such as candy decorating colors, as water-based colors will not work in oil.



Enjoy your sensory jar! Talk about our Solar System's place in our galaxy and in the universe!

At Home in The Milky Way

Discover the incredible vastness of our galaxy and beyond!

Our Solar System has one star, the **Sun**. The Solar System and Sun are part of a **galaxy**: a huge collection of stars, gas, and dust. Our galaxy is called the Milky Way. Scientists estimate that there are between 100 and 400 billion stars just in the Milky Way! The universe contains billions of galaxies like this, each one full of stars.



Arches Cluster, the densest known star cluster in the Milky Way. [Image: ESA/Hubble.](#)

Imagine one of the tiny pieces of glitter in your sensory bottle is the sun, and the much smaller planets are orbiting around it. We cannot see planets easily as only stars produce enough light.

Discover more about galaxies:
spaceplace.nasa.gov/galaxy/en/