

Alternative Assessment—Unit 3.2

The Laws of Motion and Gravity

Grade 8 Science

Overview

Given diagrams showing the laws of planetary motion or gravity, students write an explanation of each diagram. With a partner they quiz each other.

Content Standards

GLE 0807.12.5 Recognize that gravity is the force that controls the motion of objects in the solar system.

GLE 0607.Inq.3 Synthesize information to determine cause and effect relationships between evidence and explanations.

Learning Outcome: Analyze patterns in planetary motion.

Materials

Diagrams of Kepler's Laws of Planetary Motion and Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation

Resources

See Tennessee Holt Science and Technology, Grade 8, TE p. 412 for a complete description of this assessment.

Assessment Rubric

Criteria	Advanced	Proficient	Below standard
Science content	Provides a clear explanation using appropriate scientific terminology; answers all questions correctly with detailed knowledge	Provides an explanation using some scientific terminology correctly; some details unclear; answers most questions correctly or recognizes not knowing an answer	No explanation or the explanation cannot be understood; inappropriate use of scientific terminology; cannot answer questions