



Coherence and Alignment Among Science Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (CASCIA) Project

Grade 8 Unit 2: Gravity and Motion of Objects in the Solar System

Task 3 Prompt 3 Part A Scored and Annotated Anchor Set

March 2025

Grade 8 Unit 2: Gravity and Motion of Objects in the Solar System, Task 3 Prompt 3 Part A Scored and Annotated Anchor Set was developed with funding from the U.S. Department of Education under the Competitive Grants for State Assessments Program CFDA 84.368A. The contents of this paper do not represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and no assumption of endorsement by the Federal government should be made.

All rights reserved. Any or all portions of this document may be reproduced and distributed without prior permission, provided the source is cited as: Coherence and Alignment Among Science Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (CASCIA) Project. (2025). *Grade 8 Unit 2: Gravity and Motion of Objects in the Solar System, Task 3 Prompt 3 Part A Scored and Annotated Anchor Set*. Lincoln, NE: Nebraska Department of Education.

CASCIA Grade 8 EOU Assessment 2 Task 3: Earth's Solar System

Prompt 3 Part A Score Point 3

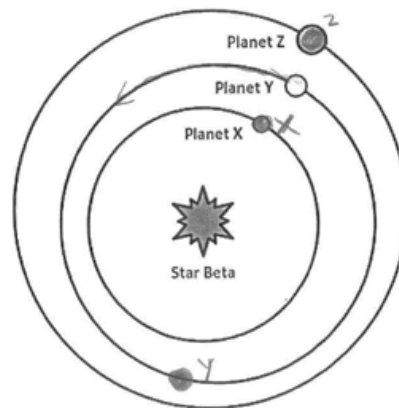
Prompt 3 Part A Rubric

Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 3 Part A.	No aspect of the response is correct	Response includes one (1) of the three (3) aspects	Response includes two (2) of the three (3) aspects	Response includes the following aspects: • Circles "YES" • Provides orbital periods or describes the situation in which the described orbital conditions occur • Accurate representation on the diagram of the location of the planets at the specified time point	NA

Score Point 3 (3/3 aspects met)

- Part A
 - Circles "YES."
 - Provides orbital periods or describes the situation in which the described orbital conditions occur.
 - Accurately represents the planets' locations on the diagram at the specified time point.

Diagram 1. Star Beta's System



Part A.

Is it ever possible for Planet Z to be closer to Planet X than to Planet Y? Circle YES or NO.

YES

NO

Explain your answer by considering the planets' orbital periods AND by drawing the relative orbital positions of the planets on Diagram 1.

I divided them with Z. After that you could find these positions. I noticed Z was closer to X after that, than Y was to X. So planet Z can be closer to X than Y.

CASCIA Grade 8 EOU Assessment 2 Task 3: Earth's Solar System

Prompt 3 Part A Score Point 2

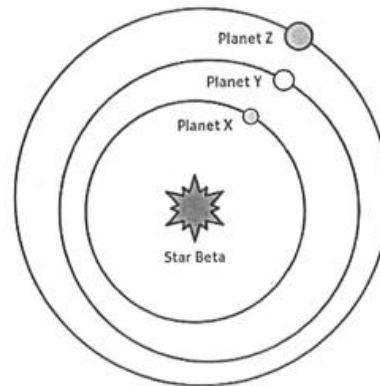
Prompt 3 Part A Rubric

Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 3 Part A.	No aspect of the response is correct	Response includes one (1) of the three (3) aspects	Response includes two (2) of the three (3) aspects	Response includes the following aspects: • Circles "YES" • Provides orbital periods or describes the situation in which the described orbital conditions occur • Accurate representation on the diagram of the location of the planets at the specified time point	NA

Score Point 2 (2/3 aspects met)

- Part A
 - Circles "YES."
 - Provides orbital periods or describes the situation in which the described orbital conditions occur.
 - Does **NOT** accurately represent the planets' locations on the diagram at the specified time point.

Diagram 1. Star Beta's system



Part A.

Is it ever possible for Planet Z to be closer to Planet X than to Planet Y? Circle YES or NO.

YES

NO

Explain your answer by considering the planets' orbital periods AND by drawing the relative orbital positions of the planets on Diagram 1.

Planet Y can be on the opposite side of the sun and planets Z and X can be on the same side and would make them closer.

CASCIA Grade 8 EOU Assessment 2 Task 3: Earth's Solar System

Prompt 3 Part A Score Point 1

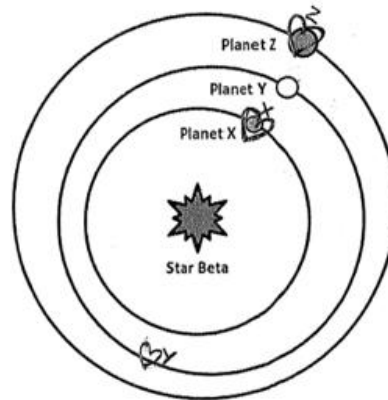
Prompt 3 Part A Rubric

Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 3 Part A.	No aspect of the response is correct	Response includes one (1) of the three (3) aspects	Response includes two (2) of the three (3) aspects	Response includes the following aspects: • Circles "YES" • Provides orbital periods or describes the situation in which the described orbital conditions occur • Accurate representation on the diagram of the location of the planets at the specified time point	NA

Score Point 1 (1/3 aspects met)

- Part A
 - Does **NOT** circle "YES."
 - Does **NOT** provide orbital periods or describe the situation in which the described orbital conditions occur.
 - Accurately represents the planets' locations on the diagram at the specified time point.

Diagram 1. Star Beta's System



Part A.

Is it ever possible for Planet Z to be closer to Planet X than to Planet Y? Circle YES or NO.

YES

NO

Explain your answer by considering the planets' orbital periods **AND** by drawing the relative orbital positions of the planets on **Diagram 1**.

Planet Y will always be between planet X and Z.
Planet Z will take longer because it is further from
the sun. Gravity will pull the planets and keep them
revolving around the star so planet Z won't go in
front of planet Y.

CASCIA Grade 8 EOU Assessment 2 Task 3: Earth's Solar System

Prompt 3 Part A Score Point 0

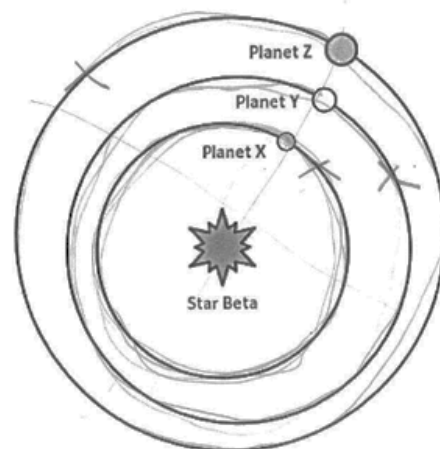
Prompt 3 Part A Rubric

Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 3 Part A.	No aspect of the response is correct	Response includes one (1) of the three (3) aspects	Response includes two (2) of the three (3) aspects	Response includes the following aspects: • Circles "YES" • Provides orbital periods or describes the situation in which the described orbital conditions occur • Accurate representation on the diagram of the location of the planets at the specified time point	NA

Score Point 0 (0/3 aspects met)

- Part A
 - Does **NOT** circle "YES."
 - Does **NOT** provide orbital periods or describe the situation in which the described orbital conditions occur.
 - Does **NOT** accurately represent the planets' locations on the diagram at the specified time point.

Diagram 1. Star Beta's System



Part A.

Is it ever possible for Planet Z to be closer to Planet X than to Planet Y? Circle YES or NO.

YES

NO

Explain your answer by considering the planets' orbital periods **AND** by drawing the relative orbital positions of the planets on Diagram 1.

Planets X and Y have shorter orbital periods than Planet Z and when I drew it up on the diagram X and Y were closer.