A Foldable Solar System

Visualizing the Scale of Space

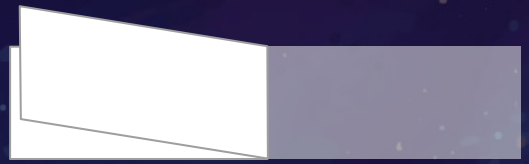
Step One

Your strip of paper will represent the solar system from the Sun to Pluto

Label one short edge of the paper “Pluto”. The other side will represent the Sun

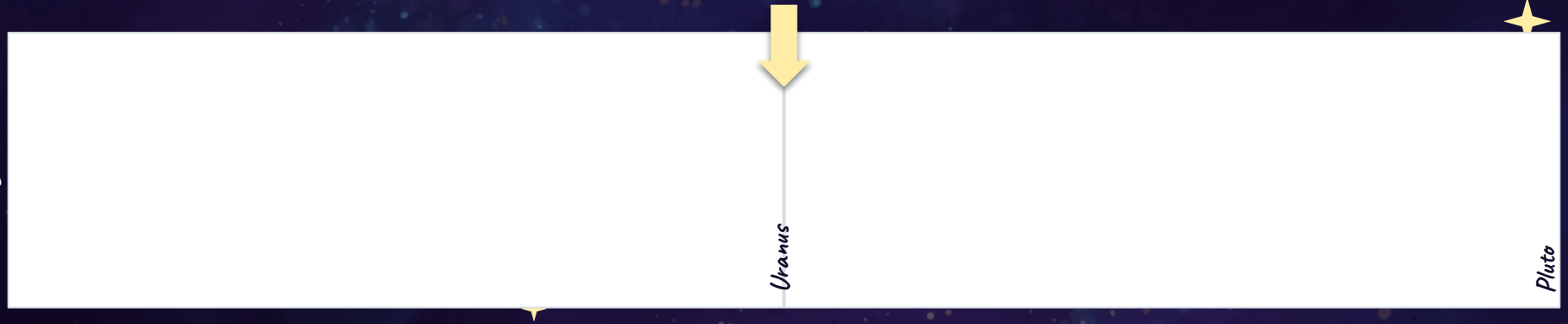
Make sure to write small so that you can fit everything else in

Step Two



The planet Uranus is about halfway between the Sun and Pluto

Fold your paper in half and label this fold “Uranus”

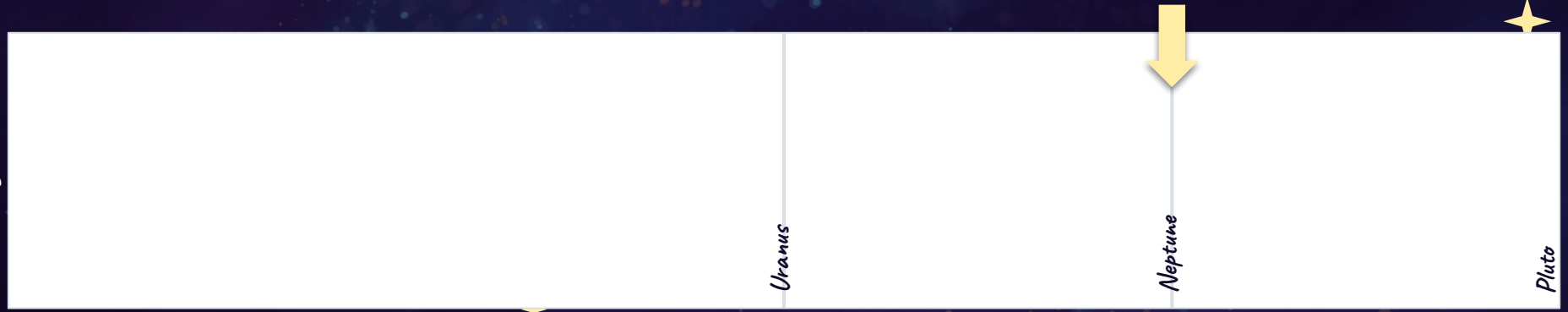


Step Three

The planet Neptune is about halfway between Uranus and Pluto

Fold the Pluto edge of the paper so that is meets the middle fold (Uranus)

Label this fold “Neptune”

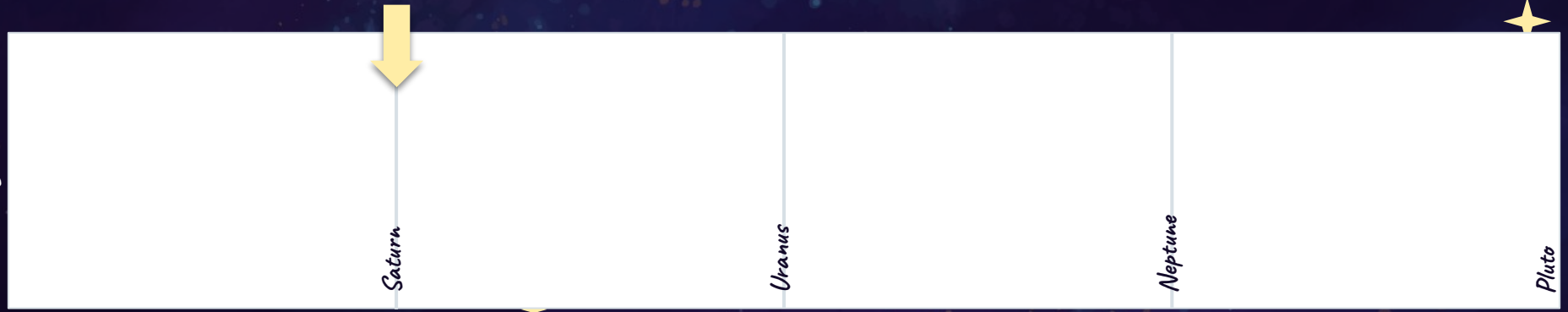


Step Four

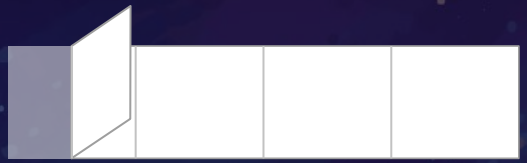
The planet Saturn is about halfway between the Sun and Uranus

Fold the “Sun” edge of the paper so that is meets the middle fold (Uranus)

Label this fold “Saturn”



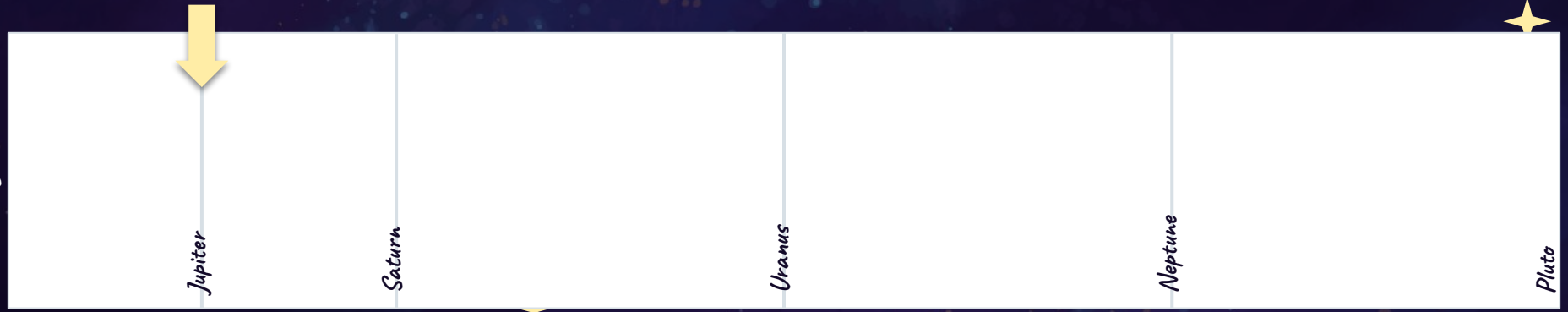
Step Five



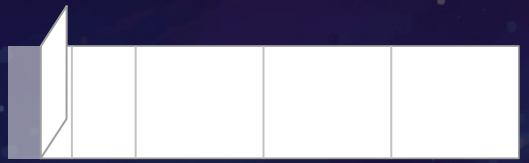
The planet Jupiter is about halfway between the Sun and Saturn

Fold the “Sun” edge of the paper so that is meets the fold labeled “Saturn”

Label this fold “Jupiter”



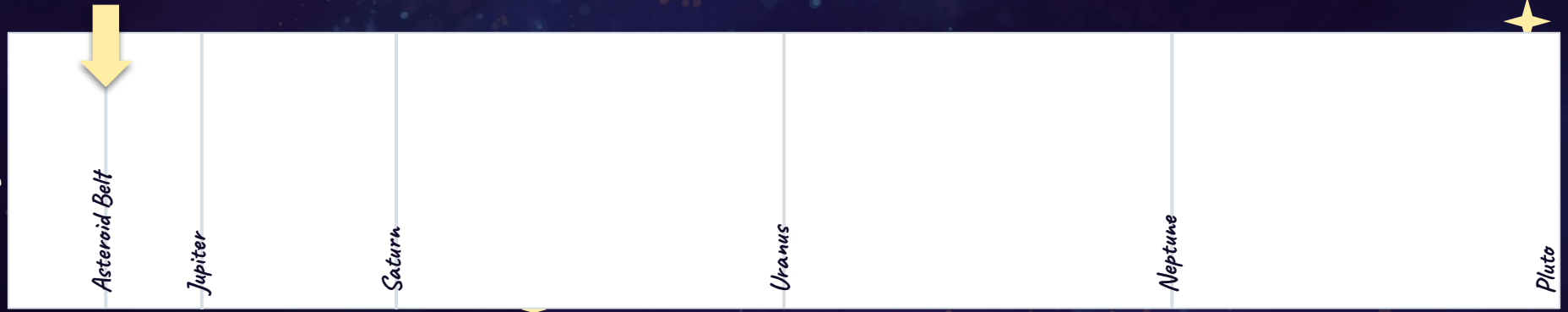
Step Six



The asteroid belt is about halfway between the Sun and Jupiter

Fold the “Sun” edge of the paper so that is meets the fold labeled “Jupiter”

Label this fold “Asteroid Belt”

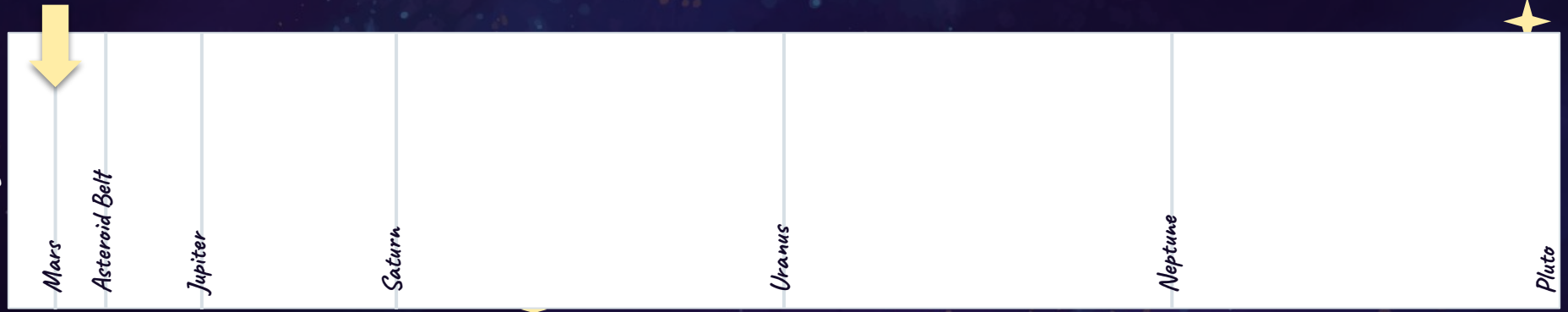


Step Seven

Mars is about halfway between the Sun and the asteroid belt

Fold the “Sun” edge of the paper so that is meets the fold labeled “Asteroid Belt”

Label this fold “Mars”



Step Eight

The closest 4 planets to the sun are similar distances from each other

Fold the “Sun” edge of the paper so that is meets the fold labeled “Mars” and then fold that new folded edge to meet “Mars” again, making 3 new folds

Step Nine

Label the closest planets to the sun (Mercury, Venus, and Earth)