

Classroom Activity

10 Big Question: How did the Universe begin?

Angular Momentum

Sit in a rotating office chair and hold a textbook in each hand with your arms outstretched. Have a friend spin you gently. Once you are spinning steadily bring the textbooks in towards your torso.

What do you notice about your rotation speed? Does it increase or decrease?

This is conservation of angular momentum in action!

Did you Know....

- All of the planets rotate in their orbits with their axes almost perpendicular to the plane of the solar system, except Neptune.
- An easy way to remember the order of the planets from the Sun is to use the mnemonic "My Very Excellent Mother Just Sent Us Nachos" (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune).

This classroom activity was suggested by Max Malacari, Master of Philosophy student with the School of Chemistry and Physics, University of Adelaide.