Name _____

The Dance of Planets: How Gravity Shapes Their Orbits Around the Sun

Short Answer

1. Explain how gravity and inertia work together to shape a planet's elliptical orbit around the Sun.

2. Describe Kepler's first law of planetary motion and its significance in understanding planetary orbits.

3. What is the law of equal areas, and how does it explain the varying speeds of planets in their orbits?

4. How does Kepler's third law relate the orbital period of a planet to its distance from the Sun?

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