Parallax Activity

Procedure:

1. Stand facing the board. Stretch your arm out in front of you and close your left eye. Cover the star on the board with your thumb. Focus on your thumb.
2. Quickly close your left eye and open your right eye. Record how many dots away the star is from your thumb.
3. Repeat the above two steps with your arm half bent.
4. Repeat steps one and two with your thumb 20 cm from your nose.

Create a chart to record data.

How does your thumb appear to move when your arm is completely extended compared to when your thumb is 20 cm from your nose?

How do you think this activity demonstrates how star distances can be estimated?

Draw the way scientists estimate star distance using parallax.