

Making a scale model of the solar system.



Modelling the Solar system using relative size of the planets



The sun is enormous compared to all the planets in the solar system. That is why the planets all rotate around the sun because it has the biggest gravity in our solar system.



For your **Sun** you need a beach ball, space hopper, yoga ball or something of a similar size. If it is yellow or orange, it would be even better.



Mercury is tiny – about the size of a pepper corn, clove or coriander seed. Ideally Mercury is red



Venus is a greenish colour and could be the size of a pea



Earth is Blue and green and is also pea sized like Venus



Mars is smaller than Earth. It is red in colour and could be a lentil, pearl barley, apple pip or coffee granule



Jupiter is the largest planet of all and should be tennis ball sized. Jupiter is identifiable because it has a large red spot on the bottom half of the planet



Saturn is slightly smaller than Jupiter so could be a table tennis ball, golf ball, large marble, large marshmallow. Saturn has rings round it which is its most remarkable feature.



Uranus is smaller still and could be a coffee bean, a bead, as small marble, mini marshmallow. It is a bluish colour

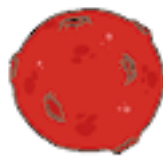


Neptune is the same size as Uranus and is also a bluish colour



Pluto is no longer classed as a planet in our solar system because it is so far away from the other planets. It is the size of a pepper corn.





Making a scale model of the solar system.



Modelling the solar system using relative distance of the planets



You need quite a lot of space for this so you might need to go onto the street with some chalk, or out to the park.



- Put a marker at the start to show the position of the **Sun**
- Walk 10 steps to find the position of **Mercury**
- Count 8 more steps before marking the position of **Venus**
- Walk 7 steps from Venus to **Earth**
- Walk 13 more steps from Earth to the position of **Mars**
- Count 92 steps from Mars to mark the position of **Jupiter**
- Walk 108 steps from Jupiter to **Saturn**
- count 240 steps from Saturn to **Uranus**
- Walk 271 more steps from Uranus to the position of **Neptune**
- If Pluto were still classed as a planet you would need to count 234 steps from Neptune to mark its position



Can you still see where you started when you marked the Sun? Imagine how cold it will be at the edge of our solar system and how dark it will be.

