



ABOUT OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

Create your own solar system instructions

Outdoor option

This model shows the relative size of each planet and its distance from the sun.

What you will need:

- large outdoor area (such as a school oval)
- large umbrella (approximately 125cm in diameter)
- a ball bearing or other small object 0.5cm in diameter
- two mini-marshmallows
- a pea
- a Styrofoam ball (12cm in diameter)
- orange or grapefruit (approximately 10cm in diameter)
- golf ball
- ping pong ball
- metre ruler to measure metres and centimetres
- measuring wheel to measure metres

How to create the solar system (please note all distances are approximate):

- Open the umbrella and place it on the ground.
- Measure a distance of just over 1 metre and place the ball bearing to represent Mercury.
- From Mercury, measure another metre and place a mini-marshmallow to represent Venus.
- From Venus, measure 70cm and place another mini-marshmallow to represent Earth.
- From Earth, measure 1.5 metres and place the pea to represent Mars.
- From Mars, measure 10.3 metres and place the Styrofoam ball to represent Jupiter.



ABOUT OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

- From Jupiter, measure 12 metres and place the orange or grapefruit to represent Saturn.
- From Saturn, measure 27 metres and place the golf ball to represent Uranus.
- From Uranus, measure 30 metres and place the ping pong ball to represent Neptune.

Indoor option

This model shows the relative size of each planet, but not the distances from the sun.

What you will need:

- a doorway
- a table
- a small pea
- two five cent pieces
- a smartie
- a size 5 soccer ball
- a size 3 soccer ball
- two baseballs

How to create the solar system:

- Use the classroom doorway to represent the sun.
- Place a table near the doorway and line the other items up in the following order:
 - the pea to represent Mercury
 - a five cent piece to represent Venus
 - a five cent piece to represent Earth
 - a smartie to represent Mars
 - the size 5 soccer ball to represent Jupiter
 - the size 3 soccer ball to represent Saturn
 - a baseball to represent Uranus
 - a baseball to represent Neptune