Name: Date: Score: / 8

Solar System Scale: Learn and Practice

How big and how far apart are the planets?

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

💡 Solar System Scale

- The Sun holds more than 99 per cent of the mass in our solar system.
- Scientists measure distances in astronomical units, the average distance from Earth to the Sun.
- The planets are tiny compared with the huge spaces between them.
- 1 astronomical unit is about 150 million kilometers

1 Which planet is farthest from the Sun?

A. Saturn B. Pluto C. Neptune D. Uranus

2 What is the largest planet in our solar system?

A. Earth B. Saturn C. Jupiter D. Neptune

3 About how many Earths could line up across the Sun's width?

A. About 109 B. About 1 million C. About 2 D. About 10

4 What lies between the inner planets and the outer planets?

A. The Kuiper belt B. A ring of comets C. The Moon's orbit D. The asteroid belt

5 What is an astronomical unit?

A. The distance to the nearest star

B. The distance across Earth

C. The average Earth to Sun distance

D. The width of the Moon

6 ☀️ What is the largest object in our solar system?

A. The Sun B. Saturn C. Earth D. Jupiter

7 Which group lists the rocky inner planets?

A. Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars

B. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune

C. Venus, Saturn, Earth, Uranus

D. Mercury, Jupiter, Mars, Neptune

8 Which planet is closest to the Sun?

A. Mercury B. Venus C. Mars D. Neptune

✏️ Explain it! Write two facts you learned about solar system scale.

ANSWER KEY

Solar System Scale: Learn and Practice (answers)

How big and how far apart are the planets?

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

1 Which planet is farthest from the Sun?

A. Saturn B. Pluto **C. Neptune** D. Uranus

Neptune is the eighth and farthest planet. Pluto is farther at times, but it is a dwarf planet.

2 What is the largest planet in our solar system?

A. Earth B. Saturn **C. Jupiter** D. Neptune

Jupiter is the giant of the planets. More than 1,000 Earths could fit inside it.

3 About how many Earths could line up across the Sun's width?

A. About 109 B. About 1 million C. About 2 D. About 10

The Sun is about 109 times wider than Earth. That is one huge star!

4 What lies between the inner planets and the outer planets?

A. The Kuiper belt B. A ring of comets C. The Moon's orbit **D. The asteroid belt**

The asteroid belt sits between Mars and Jupiter, dividing the rocky planets from the giant planets.

5 What is an astronomical unit?

A. The distance to the nearest star

B. The distance across Earth

C. The average Earth to Sun distance

D. The width of the Moon

An astronomical unit is the average distance from Earth to the Sun, about 150 million kilometers.

6 ☀️ What is the largest object in our solar system?

A. The Sun B. Saturn C. Earth D. Jupiter

The Sun is far bigger than any planet. It holds almost all the mass in the solar system.

7 Which group lists the rocky inner planets?

A. Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars

B. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune

C. Venus, Saturn, Earth, Uranus

D. Mercury, Jupiter, Mars, Neptune

The four inner planets are small and rocky. The four outer planets are giants made mostly of gas and ice.

8 Which planet is closest to the Sun?

A. Mercury B. Venus C. Mars D. Neptune

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun and also the smallest planet.