

2,000 of the planet Mercury (the smallest of the eight planets in our solar system) could fit inside of Jupiter (the largest planet in our solar system)!

If the earth was the size of the dot at the end of this sentence, then the sun would be about the size of a tennis ball.

The earth is 12,742 km across (this is its diameter).

{The Small Rocky Planets}

Mercury's diameter: 0.3829 x Earth

Venus's diameter: 0.9499 x Earth

Mars's diameter: 0.5320 x Earth

{The Giant Gas Planets}

Jupiter's diameter: 10.9733 x Earth

Saturn's diameter: 9.1402 x Earth

Uranus's diameter: 3.9809 x Earth

Neptune's diameter: 3.8647 x Earth

726,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (seven hundred and twenty-six thousand trillion) pounds - that's about how much Mercury - the very lightest planet - weighs!

The heaviest planet is Jupiter. It has a mass that is about 318 times that of Earth!

Think of how big a jumbo jet is. If there was a fully loaded 747 jet, it would weigh less than one billionth of what Earth weighs!

The diameter of the sun is 109 x Earth's diameter.

If the planet Mercury was as big as the period at the end of this sentence, the sun would be as wide as the piece of paper.

Directions: Cut the strips apart. Fold them in half, and stick them inside a hat, jar, or other container. Have students draw from the jar, then write down what is on their strip.