

# Distant Planets

3rd - 5th  
Grade

## Materials

- ★ 8 inch ball
- ★ Pinhead (2)
- ★ Peppercorn (2)
- ★ Large Marble
- ★ Marble
- ★ Bead (2)
- ★ Open Area
- ★ Ruler

Students will learn about the sizes and relative distances of the planets in our Solar System.

## Directions

With an adult's help, find the 9 objects listed on the left and an open space about a half mile long.

Starting with the sun, count 3-foot paces and place the objects in the correct spots.

Object	Model & Size	Giant Steps (About 3 feet) to Next Planet or Dwarf Planet	Total Steps = Total Yards from the Sun	Approximate Miles from the Sun
Sun	8-inch ball	0	0	0
Mercury	Pinhead (0.03 inches/0.08 cm)	10	10	36,000,000
Venus	Peppercorn (0.08 inches/0.2 cm)	9	19	67,000,000
Earth	Peppercorn (0.08 inches/0.2 cm)	7	26	93,000,000
Mars	Pinhead (0.03 inches/0.08 cm)	14	40	142,000,000
Jupiter	Large marble (0.9 inches/2.3 cm)	95	135	484,000,000
Saturn	Marble (0.7 inches/1.8 cm)	112	247	887,000,000
Uranus	Bead (0.3 inches/0.8 cm)	249	496	1,783,000,000
Neptune	Bead (0.3 inches/0.8 cm)	281	777	2,794,000,000



"Take a Solar System Walk" activity is courtesy of Guy Ottewell, based on "The Thousand-Yard Model," or "Earth as a Peppercorn" (published by Universal Workshop).