

Actual size of the solar system



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Overview

How big is the Solar System?

Under this definition, the solar system is truly gigantic. One light year is equivalent to 5.88 trillion miles (9.46 trillion kilometres), and so the solar system would be trillions of miles in size. The size of the solar system is dependent upon what definition you use, which can range from 11 billion miles to over five trillion miles.

How big is the Sun compared to the Earth?

The Sun is much much bigger than all the planets, in fact, you could fit over a million Earths inside the Sun! The next biggest object in the Solar System is Jupiter, a gas giant planet. Its mass is about 318 times that of the Earth. A solar eruption captured by SOHO (Solar and Heliospheric Observatory). The Earth is shown here for size comparison.

How is the size of the Sun calculated?

All sizes are calculated based on the diameter of the Sun of 720 pixels. Your path through the Solar System is accompanied by facts and trivia. If you get tired of scrolling or if you are in a hurry, there will be shortcuts after Mars. The Sun is the star at the center of our Solar System.

How big is the Sun?

On this scale, the Sun, by far the largest thing in our solar system, is only a ball about two-thirds of an inch (17 millimeters) in diameter sitting on the goal line — that's about the width of a U.S. dime coin. Considering a typical honeybee is about half an inch long, the fans are going to need telescopes to see the action.

How do astronomers measure the size of our Solar System?

The best way to appreciate the size of our solar system is by creating a scaled model of it that shows how far from the sun the eight planets are located.



Astronomers use the distance between Earth and sun, which is 93 million miles, as a new unit of measure called the Astronomical Unit.

How far does our Solar System extend?

Our Solar System extends much, much farther than where the planets are. The furthest dwarf planet, Eris, orbits within just a fraction of the larger Solar System. The Kuiper Belt, where we find a Pluto, Eris, Makemake and Haumea, extends from 30 astronomical units all the way out to 50 AU, or 7.5 billion kilometers. And we're just getting started.



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Solar System Size and Distance - Video , NASA JPL Education

But, compared to some of the planets in our solar system, it's pretty small. We often see planets displayed as similar in size, like this, to make details on smaller planets easier to see. In reality, the size of planets compared to each other looks more like this.

In Depth , Our Solar System - NASA Solar System Exploration

Our planetary system is called "the solar system" because we use the word "solar" to describe things related to our star, after the Latin word for Sun, "solis." Size and Distance Our solar ...



Build a Solar System

If you build your solar system on a roll of toilet paper, you can make the Sun about .4 inches (10 mm) across and still fit the entire solar system on the roll. A standard roll of toilet paper has about 450 sheets that are about 4.375 inches ...

The Solar System: True to Scale

A preferred model defines the true size of the Solar System by the reach of its gravity; how far away an object can still be said to orbit the Sun. This is about 2 light-years, or almost half the distance from the Sun to the nearest star, ...



[Scale and Size , Solar System , Space FM](#)

Scale & Size 7.5 - Be able to use information about the scale of the Solar System
Understanding the size differences of objects in the solar system as well as their correct distances from each other is important. There are many good projects ...



[Planet Sizes and Locations in Our Solar System](#)

Our solar system has eight planets, and five officially recognized dwarf planets. Which planet is biggest? Which is smallest? What is the order of the planets as we move out from the Sun? This is a simple guide to the sizes ...



Scale Model of Solar System

The solar system is so large that it can't be shown to scale on a standard image. If the planet sizes are shown to scale, then the distances will be too large to fit in the image. On the other hand, if the distances are to scale then the objects will ...





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