

PRACTICAL ACTIVITY

SCALE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM

MATERIALS:

- Paper and Colouring Pencils
- A calculator
- A ruler
- A device or printer

This practical experiment will show you what the true scale of the solar system is really like.



STEPS

Start off by opening or printing out the data sheet here:
https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/pdfs/scaless_reference.pdf

Use your knowledge of ratios to draw the sun and planets to scale on your piece of paper. We recommend a scale where the distance to saturn is 100m long! At this scale, the sun should be about 10cm big. Make sure you have a pointy pencil for the smaller planets!

WHAT TO DO:

Observe your planets and their sizes. Were they what you expected? Depending on the space, try and lay out these planets with their actual distances from the Sun!

Remember to use lots of colour!

Bonus: Try and find objects that match to these sizes. e.g., if the sun was a door, the Earth would be a nickel!

