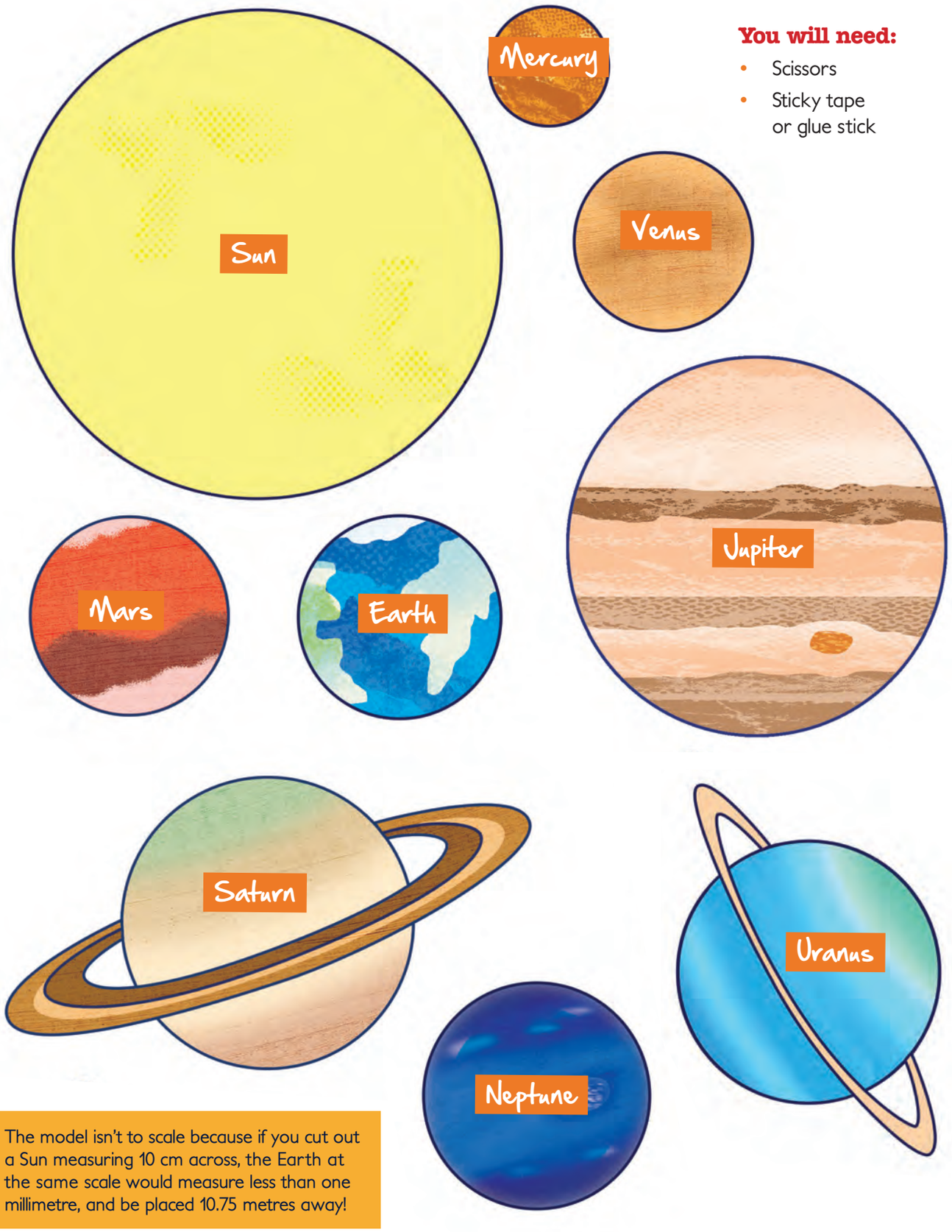
Our solar system has eight known planets, which all orbit the Sun. You can make an awesome model, showing the planets in order of their distance from the Sun.

YEAR 5 CRAFT YOUR OWN...

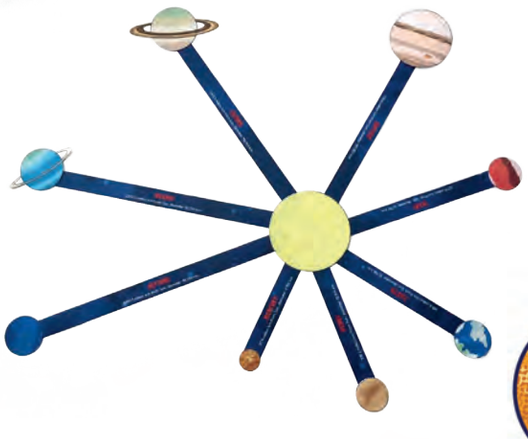
SOLAR SYSTEM

You will need:

- Scissors
- Sticky tape or glue stick

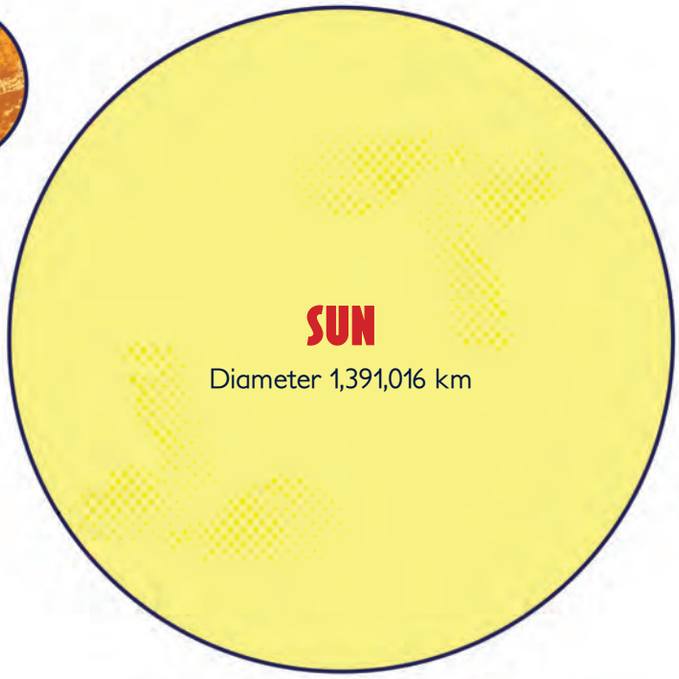


The model isn't to scale because if you cut out a Sun measuring 10 cm across, the Earth at the same scale would measure less than one millimetre, and be placed 10.75 metres away!



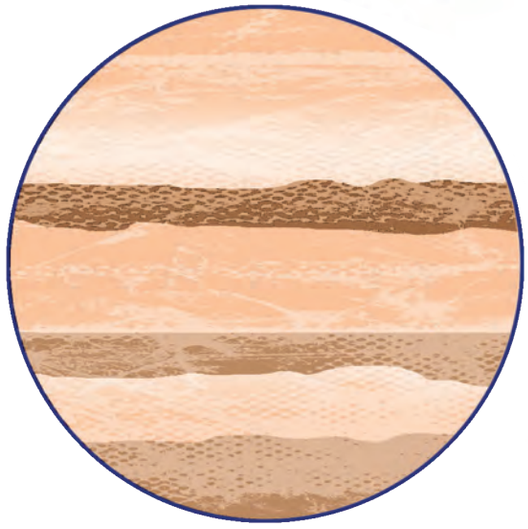
What you do:

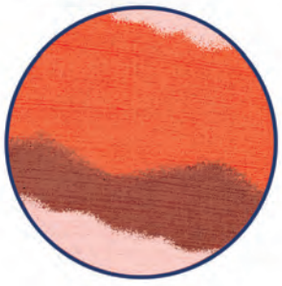
1. Cut out the planets, the Sun and the connecting strips.
2. Attach one end of each connecting strip to the back of the correct planet with sticky tape or glue.
3. Attach the other end of the connecting strips to the back of the Sun, and you're finished!

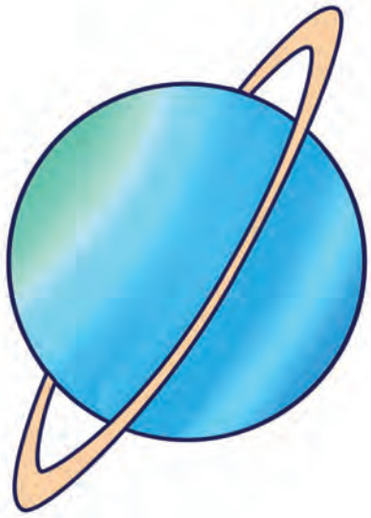


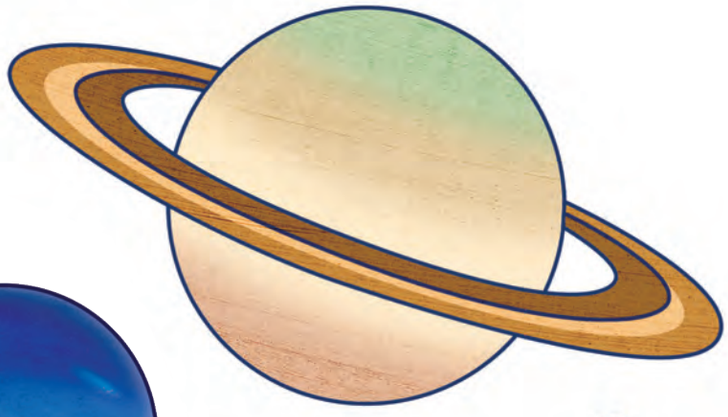
SUN

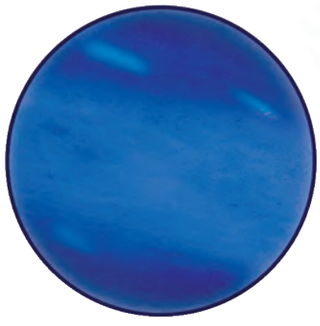
Diameter 1,391,016 km











The Sun is so massive it contains 99.86% of the entire mass in the solar system.

The distances between the Sun and the planets vary because of the planets' elliptical (oval-shaped) orbits. We've used average distances on these strips.

MERCURY
57.9 million km from Sun, diameter 4,780 km

VENUS
108.2 million km from Sun, diameter 12,104 km

EARTH
149.6 million km from Sun, diameter 12,756 km

MARS
227.9 million km from Sun, diameter 6,780 km

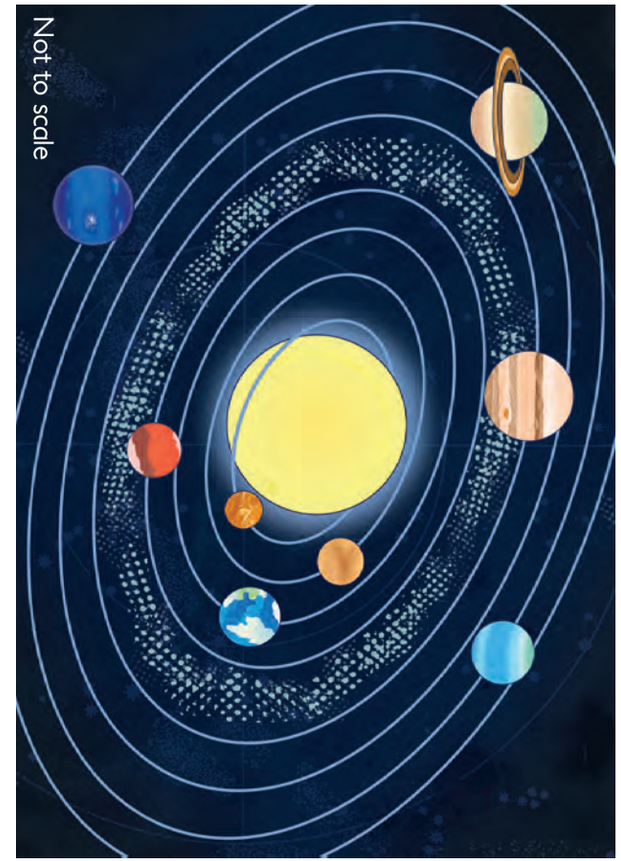
JUPITER
778.6 million km from Sun, diameter 139,822 km

SATURN
1,433.5 million km from Sun, diameter 116,464 km

URANUS
2,872.5 million km from Sun, diameter 50,724 km

NEPTUNE
4,495.1 million km from Sun, diameter 49,248 km

A solar system is a star and all the objects that orbit around it. Our solar system, with the Sun at the centre, has eight planets, five known dwarf planets, 149 known moons (with another 25 possible moons being investigated), more than 715,000 asteroids, more than 3,400 comets, and countless meteoroids and smaller particles of debris, left over from when the solar system formed. Much of this debris can be found in the asteroid belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter, and the Kuiper belt beyond Neptune.



Mercury has 'wrinkles' called Lobate Scarps, up to a mile high

A day on Venus lasts longer than a year on Venus

The Earth's rotation is gradually slowing, at about 17 milliseconds per 100 years

Mars has the largest known volcano in the solar system, called Olympus Mons

Jupiter's Great Red Spot is a huge storm that has raged for at least 350 years

Saturn's rings are made of lumps of ice and rock, some as small as a grain of sand, others as large as a house

Uranus's axis tilts at almost 98 degrees, meaning it orbits the Sun lying on its side

A year on Neptune lasts 165 Earth years