**Mercury**

Mercury has been known for a long time because it is visible to the naked eye. Galileo Galilei made the first telescopic observation of this small planet in the 17th century. It was named after the swift Roman god of commerce. Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun. It lies at an average distance of about 58 million kilometers (36 million miles). In terms of the Earth-Sun distance, it is 0.4 AU. Measuring around 4,880 km (3,032 mi) across, Mercury is the smallest of all the eight planets. It is 2.6x smaller than our planet and is just slightly bigger than the Earth’s Moon.

Distance: 57,910,000 km (35,983,605 mi)

Radius: 2,440 km (1,516 mi)

Temperature: -180 to 430 °C (-290 to 800 °F)

Day length: 59 Earth days

Year length: 87.97 Earth days

Number of moons: 0

**Venus**

This planet lies around 108 million km (67 million mi) from the Sun. It is 12,104 km (7,521 mi) across, about the same size as Earth. Because of that, it is often called “Earth’s twin.” However, other than size, the two are very different. Venus is scorching hot, with temperatures around 475 °C (900 °F).

Venus is one of the brightest objects in our night sky, second only to the Moon. It has been a common sky fixture ever since antiquity, so one is credited with its discovery. With an apparent magnitude of -4.14, it is much brighter than the -1.46 magnitude Sirius. Because it is close to the Earth, Venus appears exceptionally bright to us. Even during the day, it is bright enough to be seen.

Distance: 108,200,000 km (67,232,363 mi)

Radius: 6,052 km (3,761 mi)

Temperature: 438 to 482°C (820 to 900 °F)

Day length: 243 Earth days

Year length: 225 Earth days

Number of moons: 0

**Earth**

The Earth is the largest terrestrial planet and the fifth-largest overall. It is the third planet from the Sun, with an average distance of 150 million km (93 million mi). This is just the perfect distance, not too close but also not too far from the Sun. It lies in the habitable zone, the area where the temperature is just enough to allow liquid water on its surface.

The Earth has four layers: the inner core, outer core, mantle, and crust. We live on the crust, the thinnest layer of the planet. The surface is 71% water and land only occupies only 29% of it.

Distance: 149,600,000 km (92,957,130 mi)

Radius: 6,371 km (3,959 mi)

Average Temperature: 14°C ( 57.2 °F)

Day length: 23.9 hours

Year length: 365.25 days

Number of moons: 1

**Mars:**

Mars is about 1.9 times smaller than Earth. Its diameter is around 6,805 km (4,228 mi). Though it is smaller, it shares some similarities with our planet. For one, a day there is roughly the same length as a day here on Earth. Martian days are called sols and one sol takes 24.6 Earth hours. Mars is tilted by 25° so it experiences different seasons as well.

Distance: 227,940,000 km (141,635,349 mi)

Radius: 3,400 km (2,113 mi)

Temperature: -153 to 20 °C ( -225 to 70 °F)

Day length: 24.6 Earth days

Year length: 687 Earth days

Number of moons: 2

**Jupiter:**

Jupiter is roughly 142,984 km (88,846 mi) across. With that size, we can put 11 Earths side by side along its equator. It is also the most massive planet. If we combine all the seven other planets, Jupiter would still be twice as massive. A day on Jupiter is only 10 hours long—the shortest in the solar system. A year on this giant planet is much longer, taking about 12 Earth years.

This enormous planet is a gas giant made up of hydrogen and helium. It has extreme temperatures and pressures. The swirling bands and stripes that we often see on this planet are clouds of water and ammonia. Giant storms on Jupiter are common and they often last for a very long time. The famous Great Red Spot, for example, has raged for 300 years or more.

Distance: 778,330,000 km (483,631,840 mi)

Radius: 71,492 km ( 44,423 mi)

Temperature: -108 °C ( -162 °F)

Day length: 9.93 Earth hours

Year length: 11.86 Earth years

Number of moons: 79

**Saturn:**

Saturn is the second-largest planet, and like Jupiter, it is a gas giant with no solid surface. It measures roughly 120,536 km (74,897 mi) across, more than 9 times larger than Earth. The temperature on this planet is very cold. It also has extreme pressure and storms like those in Jupiter.
A day on Saturn is only 10.7 hours long but a year there takes about 29 Earth years. Its fast rotation causes it to be oblate in shape. It is flat at the poles while its equator has an unmistakable bulge. Its low density also contributes to this.

Distance: 1,424,600,000 km (885,205,400 mi)

Radius: 60,268 km (37,448 mi)

Temperature: -138 °C (-218 °F)

Day length: 10.7 Earth hours

Year length: 29 Earth years

Number of moons: 82

**Neptune:**

Neptune is the eighth planet and the farthest from the Sun. At 4.5 billion km (2.8 billion miles), it is 30 times as distant as the Earth is from the Sun.

Neptune is about four times as large as Earth. It is an ice giant and is mostly composed of water, methane, and ammonia. Though it is a bit smaller than Uranus, it is much denser. At 1.638 g/cm3, it is the densest giant planet. It also has the strongest winds in the entire solar system.

Sunlight reaches Neptune’s dark and cold world in four hours. Also, the light that our planet receives is nearly 1,000 times brighter than that on Neptune. A day there is only 16 hours long but a year takes 165 Earth years.

Distance: 4,501,000,000 km (2,796,791,736 mi)

Radius: 24,764 km (15,387 mi)

Temperature: -201 °C (-331 °F)

Day length: 16 Earth hours

Year length: 165 Earth years

Number of moons: 14

<https://theplanets.org/planets/>

<https://www.universetoday.com/36649/planets-in-order-of-size/>