

Dot Model of the Solar System

By Carolyn Hollis

Materials:

Paper, pencils, metric rulers

Directions:

1. On separate pieces of paper, draw a circle to represent each planet. Be sure to label each of your drawings with a planet letter. Use the scale column of the chart for the diameter of the circles. Your group only needs to make one set of circles.

Strategy: There are many ways to draw circles. Here is one. 1) With your ruler draw a line the length of the diameter. 2) Turn it into an X by drawing a similar line across it. 3) Draw a circle by connecting the ends of the X.

2. Discuss the model with your group. Think about what you already know about the planets. Decide which circle represents each planet. Can you arrange the planets in order from the sun?

Planet Data

Planet letter	Planet Diameter	Scale Diameter	Name of planet
A	12.76 K km	13 mm	
B	143.0 K km	143 mm	
C	6.79 K km	7 mm	
D	4.88 K km	5 mm	
E	49.5 K km	50 mm	
F	2.37 K km	2 mm	
G	120.5 K km	121 mm	
H	51.1 K km	51 mm	
I	12.1 K km	12 mm	

Answers: (Planets are listed alphabetically)

A Earth; B Jupiter; C Mars; D Mercury; E Neptune; F Pluto; G Saturn;
H Uranus; I Venus