THE SOLAR SYSTEM · PART 2 OF 9 · AGES 11–16

The Planets by the Numbers

How far, how big, how long a year and how many moons: NASA's figures for the eight planets.

30 AU

is Neptune's average distance from the Sun, 30 times Earth's

1 AU is Earth's distance from the Sun, about 150 million km. Sunlight takes about 4 hours to reach Neptune.

8 min 20 s

is how long sunlight takes to travel 1 AU to Earth

Light covers about 300,000 km every second. It reaches Jupiter, 5.2 AU away, in about 43 minutes.

11×

Jupiter's width compared with Earth's: 142,984 km across

Mercury, the smallest planet, is 4,879 km wide, only about 0.38 times Earth's 12,756 km.

88 days

is one year on Mercury, the planet closest to the Sun

Neptune needs almost 165 Earth years for one orbit. Mars takes 687 days and Jupiter 11.9 years.

293

confirmed moons orbit Saturn, more than any other planet

NASA, August 2026. Jupiter has 115, Uranus 29, Neptune 16 and Mars 2. Mercury and Venus have none.

464 °C

average surface temperature on Venus, the hottest planet

Mercury is closer to the Sun but averages 167 °C. Venus's thick carbon dioxide air traps the heat.

9.9 hours

is how long Jupiter takes to spin once, the shortest day

Venus spins so slowly, and backwards, that sunrise to sunrise takes about 117 Earth days.

687 kg/m³

Saturn's average density, lower than water's 1,000 kg/m³

Saturn is the only planet less dense than water. Earth is the densest, at 5,514 kg/m³.

Moon counts change

Astronomers keep confirming small new moons, so moon counts go up. The numbers here are NASA's as of August 2026. Always give the date when you quote a moon count.

NEXT IN THE SERIES
3. Rocky Planets vs Giant Planets

Free to share · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Sources at infographhub.com