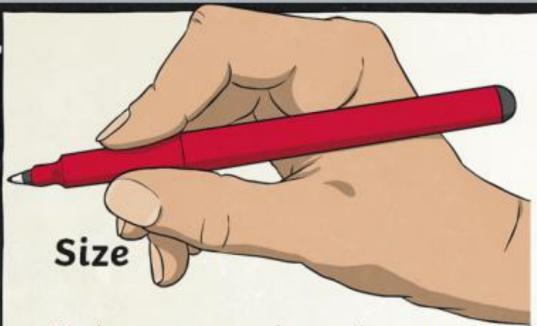


The Sun

Just like all the stars we can see in the night sky, our Sun is also a star. The stars that we see at night are just a lot, lot further away. The closest stars are about four light years away (a light year is the distance that light can travel in a year - this is such an unbelievably large distance it is hard to imagine). A star is a huge ball of burningager which is held together by gravity. They are a light source as they produce their own



In the very centre of our solar system is the Sun, which is about 1.3 million times as big as planet Earth.

The diameter of the Sun is about 1.391 million km, where the Earth is only 12,742 km.

Due to the Sun's immense size it has a huge gravitational pull. This force keeps all the planets in our solar system in orbit.



A 'moon' is the name of a body which orbits another body, as long as it is not a star.

Earth has its own moon which can be seen on any clear night. Just like how the Earth orbits the sun, the Moon orbits Earth.

Mercury and Venus are the only planets in the solar system which don't have any moons at all (Saturn has 62 moons!).