

Earth and Space

Learning Objective:

To find out about the size of the Earth, Sun and Moon and how far away from each other they are.



(not to scale!)



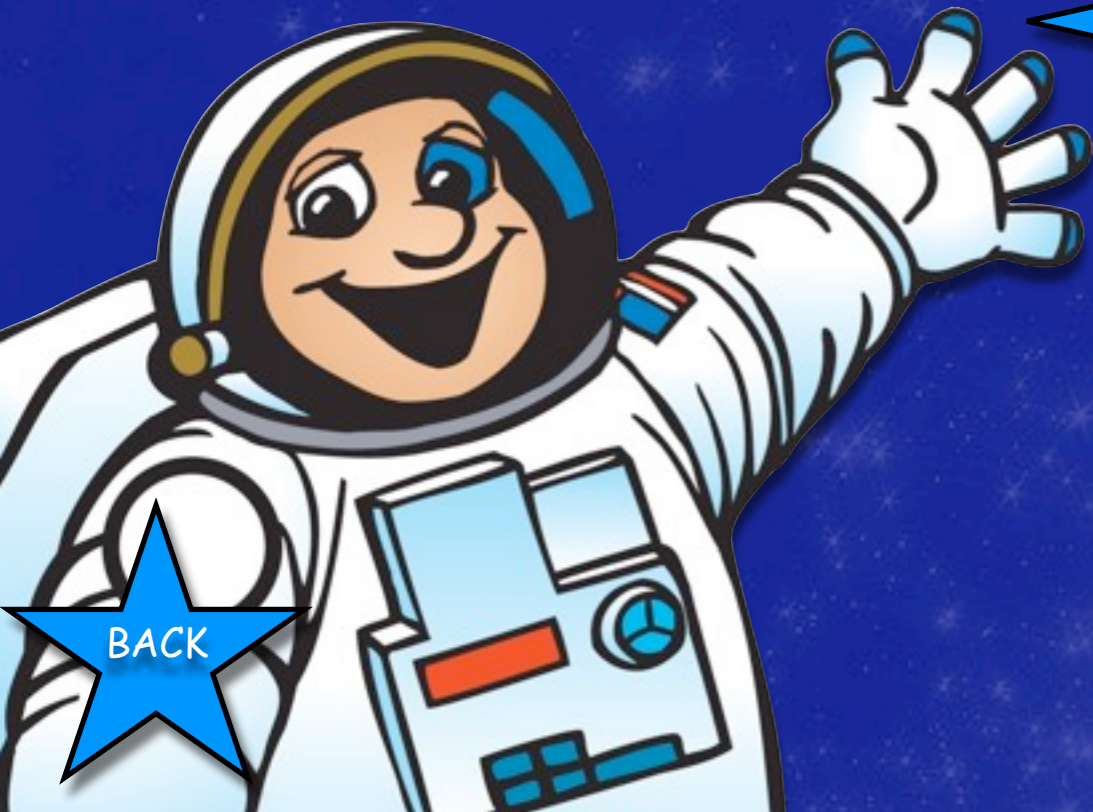
The Moon



The Earth



The Sun

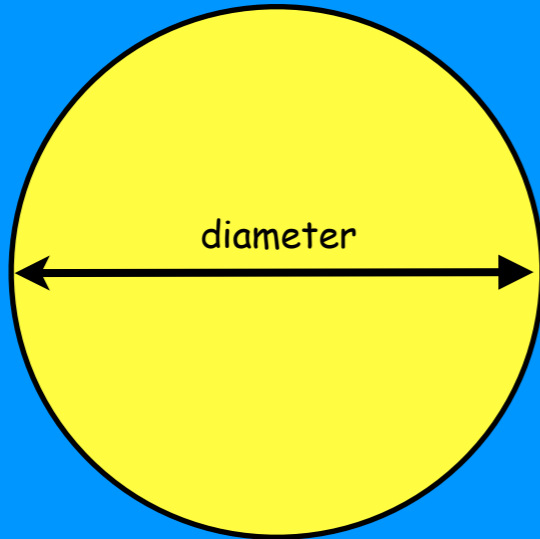


Which do you think is the biggest out of the Moon, the Earth and the Sun? Which do you think is the smallest?

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Did you know...?



The diameter of a circle or sphere is the line that runs through the centre of the shape and touches each side.

- ★ The Sun is by far the largest out of the three. The Sun has a diameter of 1,391,980 km.
- ★ The Earth has a diameter of 12,742 km.
- ★ The Moon is the smallest and has a diameter of 3474 km.

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Imagine the size of these objects represent the sizes of the Earth, Sun and Moon. Which do you think would represent which?

beach ball



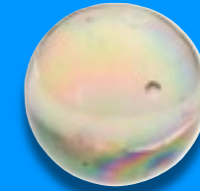
orange



pea



marble



bead



football



ping pong ball



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If the pea was the Earth, the Sun would be the beach ball and the Moon would be the bead.

Sun



Earth

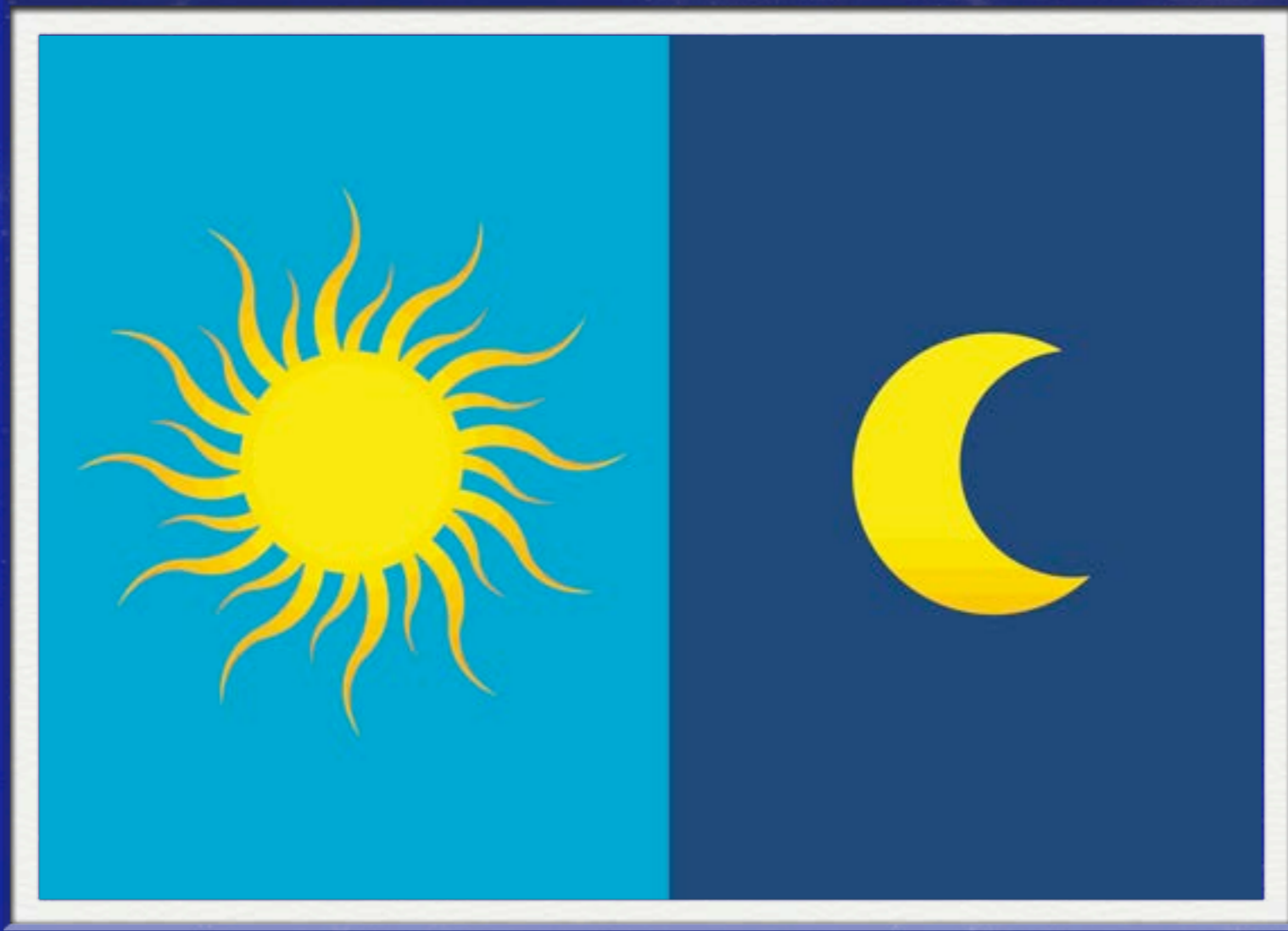


Moon



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Remember, **NEVER** look directly at the Sun. The light is so strong that it could cause blindness.

If the Sun and Moon are so different in size, why do they look roughly the same size from Earth?



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The size an object appears to be depends on how far away from it you are. Have you ever noticed how aeroplanes up in the sky look really small but when you see them close up they are very big?



It is the same thing with the Sun and the Moon. The Sun is much further away from Earth than the Moon. The Moon is 384,400 km away whereas the Sun is a whopping 149,600,000 km away. This means it looks like it is smaller than it is because it is so far from Earth.

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