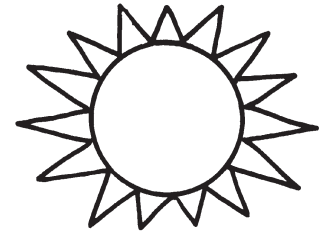


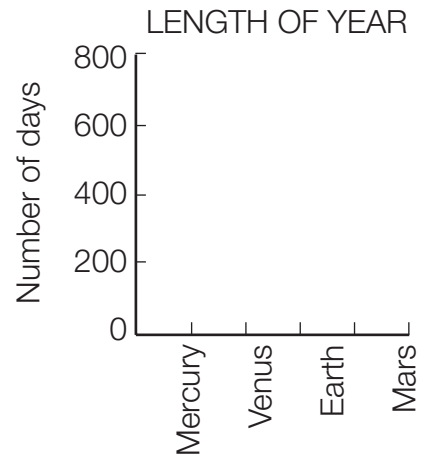
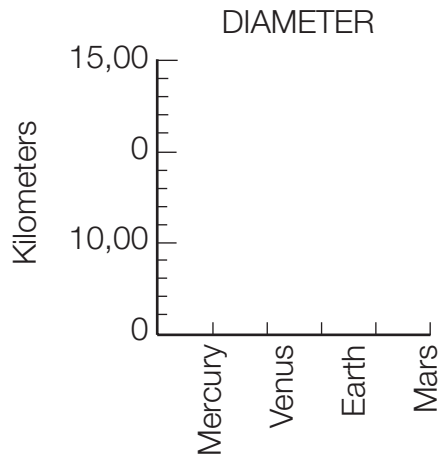
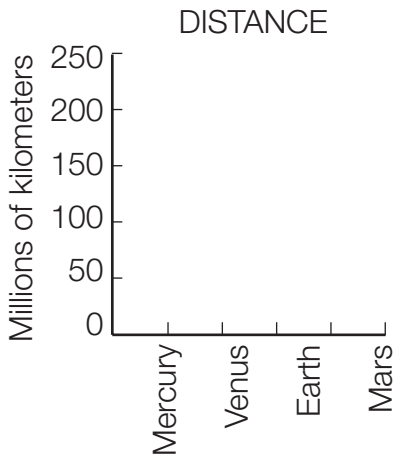
The Inner Planets



Directions

The inner planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars. Read the data about them in the chart below. Use the data to fill in the bar graphs and to answer the questions below.

| | Mercury | Venus | Earth | Mars |
|------------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|-------|
| Distance from Sun (millions of km) | 58 | 103 | 155 | 228 |
| Diameter (km) | 4,840 | 12,200 | 12,756 | 6,760 |
| Length of planet year (days) | 88 | 225 | 365 | 687 |



1. Which planet is the farthest from the Sun? _____
2. Which planet is the closest to the Sun? _____
3. Which planet has the largest diameter? _____
4. Which planet has the smallest diameter? _____
5. Which planet has the longest year? _____
6. Which planet has the shortest year? _____
7. How do the inner planets compare with one another?

The Inner Planets

Answer Key

1. Mars
2. Mercury
3. Earth
4. Mercury
5. Mars
6. Mercury
7. Of the four inner planets, Venus and Earth most closely resemble each other. Students should also conclude that there is a direct relationship between the length of a planet's year and its distance from the Sun.

