

Activity B:
Comparing planets

- Get the Gizmo ready:
- Select the **SIZE** tab.



Question: What are the interesting features of each planet?

1. Observe: Look closely at the diagram of planets. Based on the diagram, list the planets from smallest to largest:

_____ (smallest) _____
_____ (largest)

2. Compare: How do the four rocky planets compare to the four gas giants in size?

3. Analyze: Most planets are surrounded by layers of gas called an **atmosphere**. Click on each planet and read about it. Focus on information about each planet's atmosphere.

A. Of the rocky planets, which have well-developed atmospheres?

B. Which has only a thin atmosphere? _____

C. Which has no atmosphere at all? _____

D. Which planets are mostly "made of" atmosphere? _____

4. Analyze: How is the size of a planet related to the thickness of its atmosphere? Explain.

5. Extend your thinking: Which planet do you think would be easiest for humans to colonize some day? Explain. _____

