



RELATIVE INTENSITY OF SUNLIGHT AT THE PLANETS

It is easy to forget that the farther a planet lies from its “parent” star, the less light falls on it. Our own Solar System provides a good example of how the amount of light the Sun delivers over a “unit area” can differ vastly from planet to planet.

PLANET	AVERAGE DISTANCE TO SUN (Earth=1)	SUNLIGHT INTENSITY (Earth =1)	INTENSITY IN LUX	APPROXIMATE EQUIVALENCE IN “EARTH” TERMS WITH OTHER BENCHMARKS
Mercury	0.387	6.677	667,700 300,000	One Meter Away from a Bright Hospital Operating-Room Spotlight.
Venus	0.723	1.913	191,300	
Earth	1.000	1.000	100,000	Bright “Earth” Day.
Mars	1.524	0.431	43,000 30,000	Typical “Earth” Day. In the Shade on Bright “Earth” Day.
Jupiter	5.203	0.037	3,700 1,500	Some Hospital Operating Rooms. Bright Television Studios. Typical Business Office. Typical “Earth” Sunrise or Sunset.
Saturn	9.539	0.011	1,100 350	
Uranus	19.18	0.0027	270	Typical Living Room. Typical Public Bathroom.
Neptune	30.06	0.0011	110 80	
Pluto*	39.53	0.00064	64 20	Typical Night-Lit Sidewalk.
2003 UB ₃₁₃ *	97.56	0.00011	11 0.2	
			0.02	Night Under a Full Moon.
			0.001	Night Under a Quarter Moon. Night with No Moon.

* dwarf planet

Note: some of these figures may seem deceiving at first, but that is because the human eye is capable of adapting to an impressive range of light intensities.