

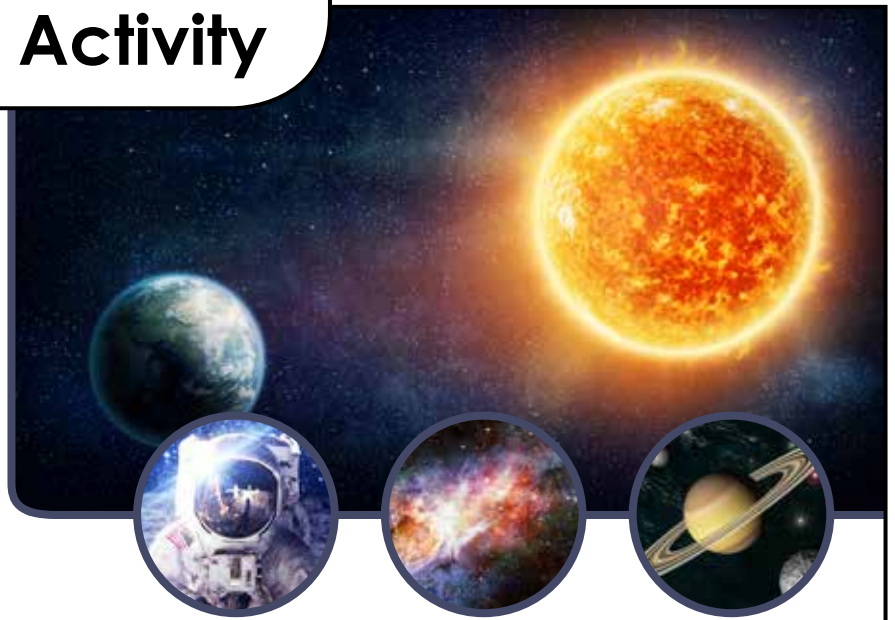
Solar System Scavenger Hunt Activity

Materials:

Solar system questions worksheet (pages 2-3)
18 solar system fact cards (pages 4-8)
Tape and scissors

Preparation

Print the fact cards on card stock or brightly-colored paper and cut them apart along the dotted lines.



Make copies of the solar system questions worksheet (2-sided). Each student will need his or her own copy.

Hide all 18 solar system fact cards around your classroom where students will be able to find them. You can put them on the back of your classroom door, on chairs, on the computer keyboard, on the sides of student desks, or wherever you like.



Preview
Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

You can have the kids work by themselves or with partners.

Don't be afraid to hide the facts in tough places. Kids think it's more fun when they have to search around a little.

Examples of good hiding spots might include:

- sticking out of a book, like a bookmark
- the back of the classroom door
- laying flat on the bookshelf
- on the back of the teacher's chair
- on the side of your computer monitor

Have a plan for students who finish early. You may want to have an assignment for them to complete when they're done, or you may have them help other students find fact cards.



Scavenger Hunt

Solar System

Fact Card

1



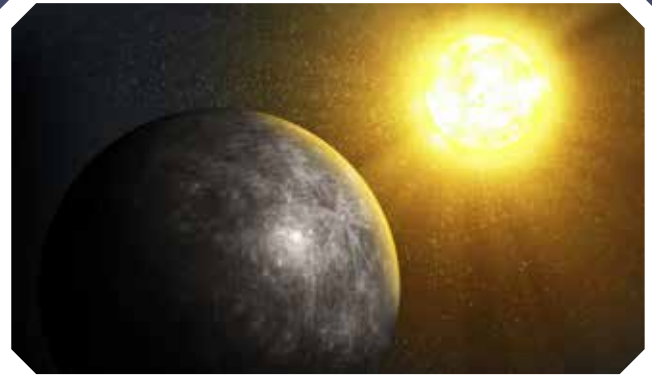
The sun is 93-million miles away from Earth. This is equal to 146-million kilometers.

Scavenger Hunt

Solar System

Fact Card

2



Mercury is the closest planet to the sun, but it is not the hottest. Venus is the hottest planet because it has many clouds that trap in heat.



Preview

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Venus has more volcanoes than any other planet.



There is only one star in our solar system - the sun. Our galaxy has millions of stars.



Scavenger Hunt

Solar System

Fact Card

5



Earth is the only planet people have ever walked on. Astronauts have also walked on the Earth's moon, but that's not a planet.

Scavenger Hunt

Solar System

Fact Card

6



Scientists have sent robots, called rovers, to explore Mars. The rovers drive around the surface of Mars, take pictures, and send them back to Earth.



Preview

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Mars has two small moons, named Phobos and Deimos.



Jupiter, the largest planet, has a "Great Red Spot." The red spot is a huge wind storm.



Scavenger Hunt

Solar System

Fact Card

9



Saturn is famous for its bright rings, but it isn't the only planet with rings. Jupiter, Uranus, and Neptune also have them.

Scavenger Hunt

Solar System

Fact Card

10



Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are known as "Gas Giants" because they're made of mostly gas.



Preview

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Uranus is the coldest planet in our solar system.



Neptune is the stormiest planet. Its wind storms blow three times as fast as hurricanes on Earth.



Scavenger Hunt

Solar System

Fact Card

13



Pluto used to be considered a planet. Scientists decided it was too small to be a "real planet," so it is now a dwarf planet.

Scavenger Hunt

Solar System

Fact Card

14



There are five known dwarf planets in our solar system. Their names are Pluto, Ceres, Haumea, Makemake, and Eris.



Preview

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It takes light eight minutes to travel from the sun to Earth. The sunlight you see outside right now, actually left the sun's surface eight minutes ago.



Pluto has three moons. Their names are Charon, Nix, and Hydra.

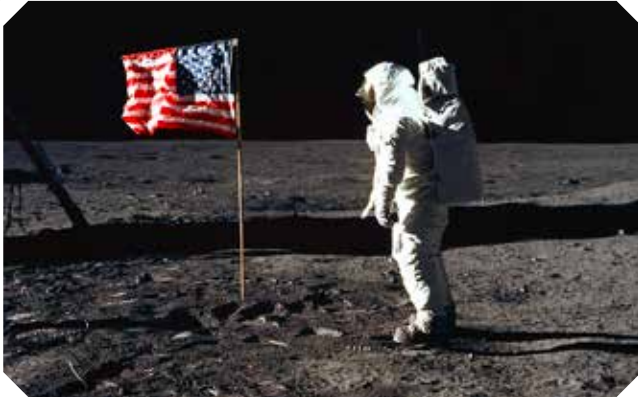


Scavenger Hunt

Solar System

Fact Card

17



Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were the first people to walk on the moon.

Scavenger Hunt

Solar System

Fact Card

18



Twelve astronauts have walked on the moon. The first astronaut walked on the moon in 1969. The last astronaut walked on the moon in 1972.



Preview

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Solar System Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 1: How far away is the sun?

Fact Card 2: What is the hottest planet?

Fact Card 3: Which planet has the most volcanoes?

Fact Card 4: How many stars are in our solar system?



Fact Card 7: Name all of Mars' moons.

Fact Card 8: What is Jupiter's "Great Red Spot"?

Fact Card 9: Name all of the planets that have rings.

Solar System Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 10: Name all four "Gas Giants."

Fact Card 11: What is the coldest planet in our solar system?

Fact Card 12: How fast do winds blow on Neptune's wind storms?

Fact Card 13: Why isn't Pluto considered a planet any more?



Fact Card 16: Name Pluto's three moons.

Fact Card 17: What were the names of the first two people to walk on the moon?

Fact Card 18: When was the last time someone walked on the moon?

Solar System Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 1: How far away is the sun?

93-million miles or 146-million kilometers

Fact Card 2: What is the hottest planet?

Venus

Fact Card 3: Which planet has the most volcanoes?

Venus

Fact Card 4: How many stars are in our solar system?

one



Fact Card 7: Name all of Mars' moons.

Phobos and Deimos

Fact Card 8: What is Jupiter's "Great Red Spot"?

a wind storm

Fact Card 9: Name all of the planets that have rings.

Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus, and Neptune

Solar System Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 10: Name all four "Gas Giants."

Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus, and Neptune

Fact Card 11: What is the coldest planet in our solar system?

Uranus

Fact Card 12: How fast do winds blow on Neptune's wind storms?

three times as fast as Earth's hurricane winds

Fact Card 13: Why isn't Pluto considered a planet any more?

it's too small



Fact Card 16: Name Pluto's three moons.

Charon, Nix, and Hydra

Fact Card 17: What were the names of the first two people to walk on the moon?

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin

Fact Card 18: When was the last time someone walked on the moon?

1972
