**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.

**Activity**
Students receive copies of the question worksheet. They have to search the classroom to find the fact cards to answer the questions.

After they have completed the question sheet, you can go over the answers together with the class.

**Management tips**
You may want to make this a silent activity so students don’t share answers with each other.

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

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.

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.
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.

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.

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

Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are known as “Gas Giants” because they’re made of mostly gas.

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.
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.

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

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

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fact Card</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>How far away is the sun?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>What is the hottest planet?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Which planet has the most volcanoes?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>How many stars are in our solar system?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Name all of the planets people have walked on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>What does a Mars rover do?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Name all of Mars' moons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>What is Jupiter’s “Great Red Spot”?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Name all of the planets that have rings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 14: Name all five dwarf planets in our solar system.

__________________________________________________________________

Fact Card 15: How long does it take light to travel from the sun to Earth?

__________________________________________________________________

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?

__________________________________________________________________
**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 5:** Name all of the planets people have walked on.

Earth

**Fact Card 6:** What does a Mars rover do?

Drives around the surface of Mars and takes pictures.

**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
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 14: Name all five dwarf planets in our solar system.
Pluto, Ceres, Haumea, Makemake, and Eris

Fact Card 15: How long does it take light to travel from the sun to Earth?
8 minutes

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