

Solar System Matching Game

Discover the Solar System with a matching game!

Materials:

Two printed copies of the Solar System matching game cards*, recycled cereal boxes or cardstock, scissors, glue.

*If you are not able to print the cards, try drawing your own!

Instructions:



Step 1: Prepare the game cards. Glue the printed sheets of solar system cards onto a recycled cereal box or cardstock. Once dry, cut the cards along the dotted lines. You should have 24 cards (12 pairs). Use Mod Podge or a laminator for a more durable set.



Step 2: With very young children, play a matching game. Lay the cards face up and find pairs together.

To play a memory game:

- Place the cards face down in front of you.
 - The first player turns over 2 cards.
 - If they match, this player collects the pair, and takes another turn.
 - If they don't match, the player leaves the cards where they are and turns them face down again. The next player takes their turn.
 - Continue playing until the cards have all been matched and collected.
- The player with the most pairs is the winner.



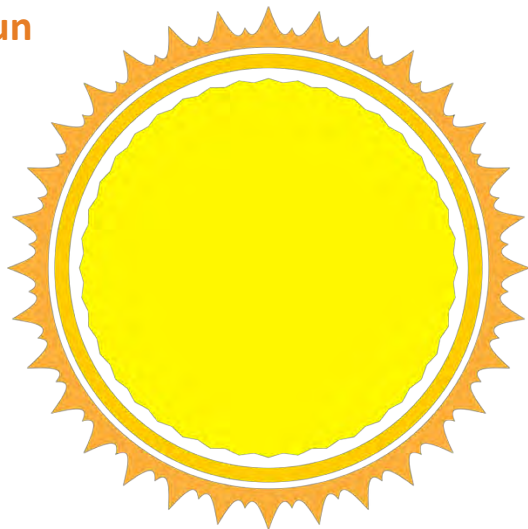
To modify the game for beginners, use fewer pairs.

Discover the solar system as you play! Use the fun facts sheet to enhance your exploration.

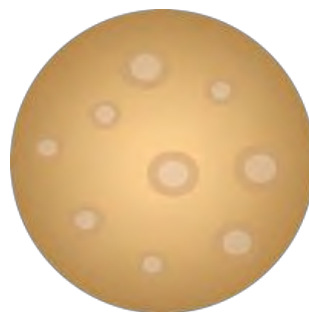
Note: Images are not to scale.

Solar System Matching Game Cards

Sun



Mercury



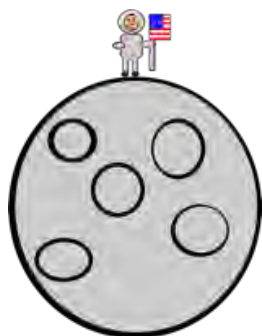
Venus



Earth



Moon



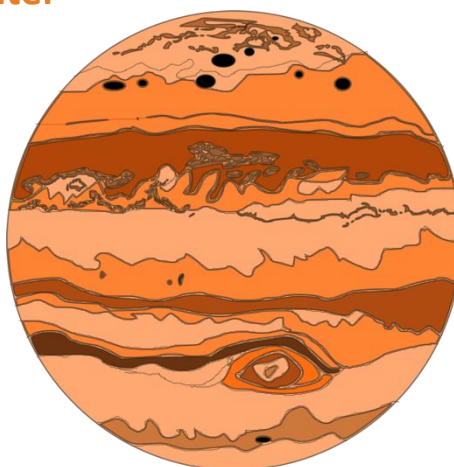
Mars



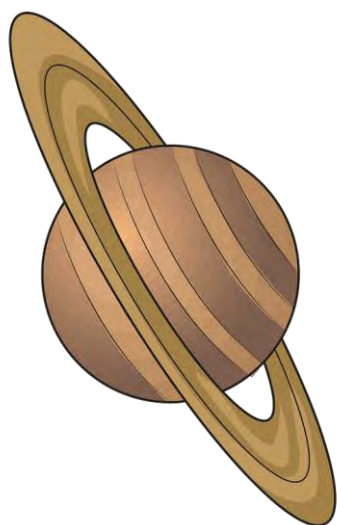
Asteroids



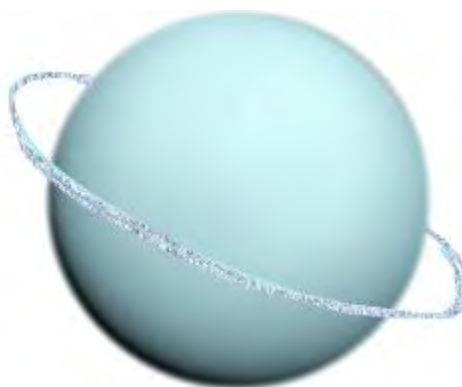
Jupiter



Saturn



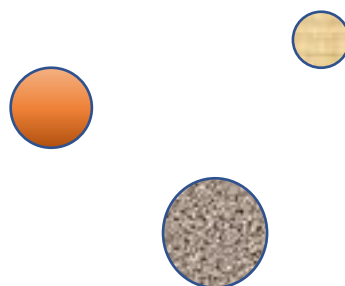
Uranus



Neptune



Pluto and dwarf planets





Solar System Fun Facts

The Sun is so big, one million Earths could fit inside it. The sun's light takes 8 minutes to reach the Earth.



Mercury is the smallest planet in the Solar System and closest to the sun. It is covered in craters.



Venus is almost as big as Earth. It is the hottest planet because of its thick atmosphere of carbon dioxide.



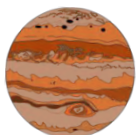
Earth is our home planet. It is full of water and life. It's the only planet we know of that supports life.



The Earth has one **Moon**. Jupiter has 67 moons that we know of, and could have even more!



Mars appears red because of rusty iron in the ground. It has the tallest mountain in the Solar System, 21 kilometers (13 miles) high!



Jupiter is the biggest planet in the solar system. It is so big that all of the other planets in our solar system could fit inside of it!



Saturn is made of gases, including a lot of helium. It is very light; it would float in water (if there was a bathtub big enough)!



Uranus has 9 icy rings. The one on the outside edge is made of boulders of ice several feet thick!



Neptune is the farthest planet from the Sun. It is dark and cold. Neptune takes 165 Earth years to travel around the sun once.



Asteroids are "space rocks". They are smaller than planets, and orbit the sun. Many are found in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.



Pluto is a dwarf planet; these objects are much smaller than the eight "regular" planets. There are four other dwarf planets: Ceres, Eris, Makemake, and Haumea.

Learn more about the solar system:

spaceplace.nasa.gov/menu/solar-system/