

# 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.

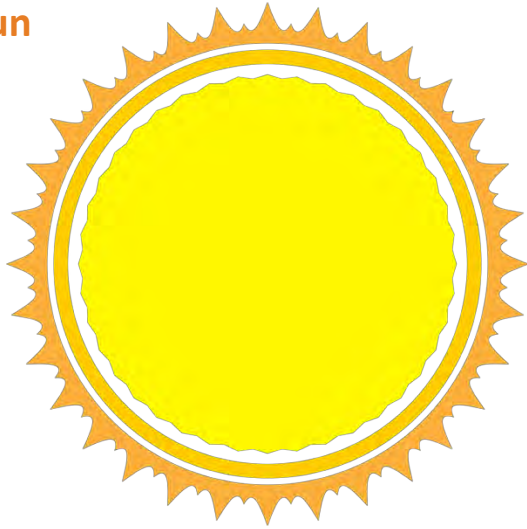
**Discover the solar system as you play! Use the fun facts sheet to enhance your exploration.**

*Note: Images are not to scale.*

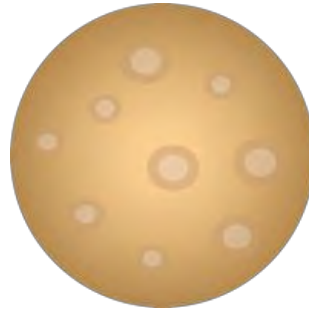
# UAMN Virtual Early Explorers: Solar System

Solar System Matching Game Cards

Sun



Mercury



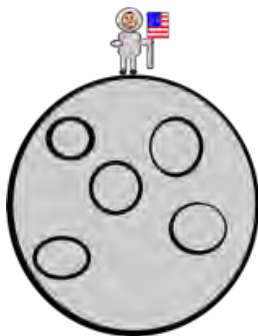
Venus



Earth



Moon



Mars



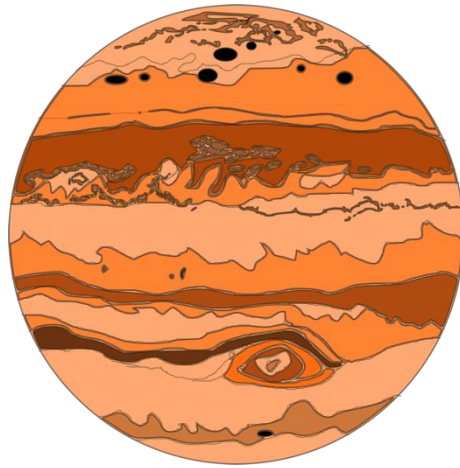
# UAMN Virtual Early Explorers: Solar System

Solar System Matching Game Cards

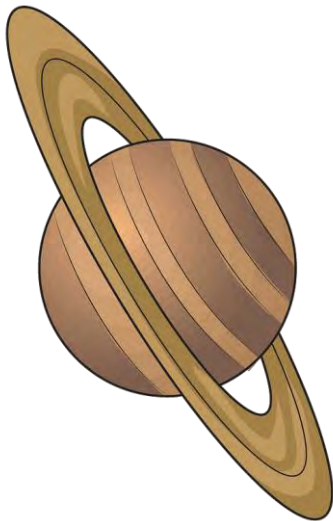
Asteroids



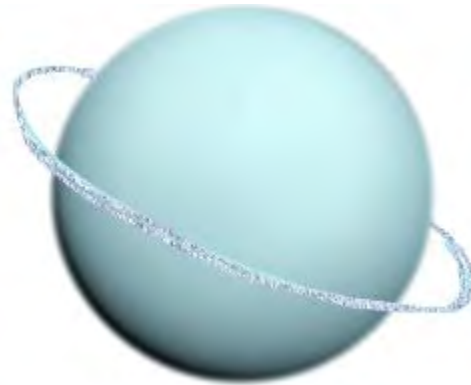
Jupiter



Saturn



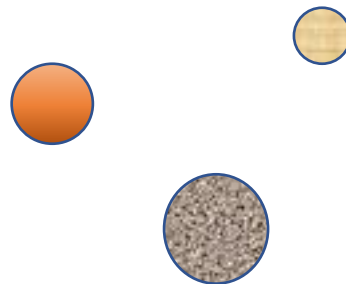
Uranus



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.



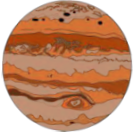
**Earth** is our home planet. It is full of water and life. It's the only planet we know of that supports life.



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/](https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/menu/solar-system/)