

## Introduction

Teams of pupils answer four rounds of general knowledge quiz questions. Each correct question answered wins a particular sum of 'money'. This is intended to be a fairly mixed set of general knowledge questions. Some more difficult questions are required so that the 'money' won gets taken away at regular intervals. There are 59 questions in the set. This should be enough for a game.

## Running the activity

Choose 5 pairs or trios of pupils. This is to involve more people and to ensure the game does not drag on too long. Five teams will need four rounds to produce a winner. You will also need three officials: a banker, an assistant and a quizmaster (the teacher or a pupil). This is based on a well-known TV quiz, so pupils may know the rules well.

- The quizmaster chooses questions in turn from the three sections, solar system, outer space and exploration.
- The banker declares the amount of money on offer, starting with £50 and increasing at £50 increments. Before they are asked a question a team may elect to bank the money they have accumulated so far in that round. After money is banked the value of the next question drops back to £50 again. The amount of money increases as more questions are asked. If a question is answered incorrectly the money built up and not banked is lost.
- Tokens can be used as money.
- The banker keeps a record of how much money has been banked.
- The assistant keeps a tally chart of who has the most correct and wrong answers. There is a table for this at the end of the file.
- The timekeeper times ten seconds per answer and two and a half minutes per round, including question-asking time.
- A team has 10 seconds (a long time) to answer.
- They vote out the weakest link in each of the first three rounds.

**In the final round:** The remaining two teams are asked five questions each, and the highest score wins. Use a 'first-to-answer' question in the event of a tie. The winners get a small prize.

## Safety

Not applicable.

## More ideas

There will be more sets of questions in all of the *Fun-Size* sections of CD ROMs produced by ASE for Science Year.

## Learning outcomes

Recap the Solar System.

## Where the activity fits in

Anywhere. It is intended to provide interesting facts to generate further questions and discussion from pupils.

## Skills

Vocabulary, recall, knowledge and understanding, team-work.

## Solar system

1. How many Earths would fit across the diameter of the Sun - 8, 110 or 650?  
110
2. How many years does it take Pluto to orbit the Sun -24, 248 or 2,480 years?  
248 years
3. Is Mars bigger or smaller than Earth?  
Smaller
4. How long does it take the Sun's light to reach Earth - 0.8 seconds, 25 seconds or 8 minutes?  
8 minutes
5. Is it true that you can see the Great Wall of China from space?  
No, this is not true.
6. How many men have walked on the Moon – 6, 12 or 24?  
12 (all American)
7. Mars is covered in a fine green dirt so light that it hangs in the air. True or false?  
False. There is a dust that hangs in the air, but it is red, not green.
8. Which planet, when viewed through a telescope, shows phases like the Moon – Venus, Mars or Saturn?  
Venus (Mercury does too).
9. How many moons are there orbiting Mars?  
Two
10. What are Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto?  
Four moons of Jupiter (and characters from Roman myths).
11. What blocks out the Sun's light during an eclipse?  
The Moon
12. How strong is the Moon's gravity – 1/6, 1/3 or 1/2 of Earth's gravity?  
1/6 Earth's gravity

13. How many moons does the planet Venus have – 0, 1 or 2?

None

14. Which planet has its axis tilted over so it orbits on its side – Mercury, Uranus or Pluto?

Uranus

15. Which planet was thought to be furthest from the Sun in the 1980s and '90s?

Neptune, until 1998

16. What is the temperature on Venus – 100°C, 200 °C or 400 °C?

400 °C

17. Which planet is nearest to the Sun?

Mercury

18. Where is the Sea of Tranquillity?

On the Moon

19. When was Jupiter's Red Spot first noticed – 1664, 1801 or 1910?

1664

20. Which planet is covered with clouds of sulphuric acid – Venus, Mercury or Jupiter?

Venus

21. What is the average temperature on Mars: -4 °C, -49 °C or -149 °C?

-49 °C

22. Which planet is famous for its rings?

Saturn

23. Which planet is so light it can float on water – Jupiter, Saturn or Uranus?

Saturn (its density is 7/10 that of water)

24. What are Saturn's rings made of – dust and rocks, ice or dry ice?

Mostly ice

25. How long is it between one full Moon and the next – 26.5, 27, 28 or 29.5 days?

29.5 days

26. Which planet has the most moons – Jupiter, Saturn or Neptune?

Saturn

27. If the moon is 'waxing' are the crescents getting fatter or thinner?

Fatter (the Moon is getting fuller)

## **Outer space**

28. Does a comet's tail point towards or away from the Sun?

Away from the Sun

29. How hot is the surface of the Sun: 6 thousand °C, 6 million °C or 6 billion °C?

6 thousand °C

30. What year will Halley's comet next return to our Sun – 2045, 2062 or 2086?

2062

31. What gas is the Sun mostly made of – hydrogen, helium or oxygen?

Hydrogen

32. How far does light travel in one second – 30,000 km, 300,000 km or

3,000,000 km?

300,000 km

33. A neutron star is so dense that 1 cubic cm weighs – 10 tonnes, 1,000 tonnes or 10 million tonnes?

10 million tonnes

34. What is an exploding star called?

A supernova

35. Alpha Centauri is the star system closest to our own. Is it 4 light years away, 40 light years away or 400 light years away?

4 light years

36. Where on Earth would you be if you could see the Pole Star on the horizon?

You would be on the Equator

37. What does the word 'nebula' literally mean?

Clouds – nebula is Latin for a cloud

38. About how many stars are there in our galaxy – 1 million, 100 million or 100,000 million?  
100,000 million

39. Who was the first astronomer to use a telescope to study space?  
Galileo (1564-1642)

40. Which is the brightest star in the night sky?  
Sirius

41. How many stars can you see with the naked eye on a dark night – a few hundred, a few thousand or a few million?  
A few thousand

42. How many stars can you see during the day?  
One – the Sun

43. What shape is our galaxy – like a cigar, a ball or a disc?  
Like a disc

## **Exploration**

44. Who developed the first modern rocket – the USA, the USSR or Germany?  
Germany

45. What is the name of Europe's rocket – Orion, Argos or Ariane?  
Ariane

46. Does a refracting telescope use lenses or mirrors?  
Lenses

47. Who was the first man to orbit the Earth?  
Yuri Gagarin

48. What was the name of the space shuttle that exploded in 1986?  
Challenger

49. What year did the first man step on to the Moon?  
1969

50. At what height does the space shuttle orbit above the Earth – 200 km, 5,000 km or 22,000 km?

About 200 km above the Earth

51. What does NASA stand for?

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

52. What nationality is Neil Armstrong?

American

53. Our knowledge of the outer planets has been revolutionised by which two spacecraft?

Voyager 1 and Voyager 2

54. What was Yuri Gagarin's famous spacecraft called – Vostok 1, Sputnik 1 or Salyut 1?

Vostok 1

55. How many people can the space shuttle carry – 5, 7 or 10 people?

7 people

56. Which planet is being considered for man's first colony in the coming century?

Mars

57. How fast must a rocket travel to escape the pull of Earth's gravity –

9000 km/hr, 25000 km/hr or 40000 km/hr?

39000 km/hr is the Earth's escape velocity, so the closest answer is 40000 km/hr

58. How many active satellites are in orbit – 300, 3,000 or 10,000?

About 300

59. What was the name of the first satellite to orbit Earth?

Sputnik

# Link Record Card

	<b>Team 1</b> Names	<b>Team 2</b> Names	<b>Team 3</b> Names	<b>Team 4</b> Names	<b>Team 5</b> Names
<b>Round 1</b> Right answers  Wrong answers  Banked					
<b>Round 2</b> Right answers  Wrong answers  Banked					
<b>Round 3</b> Right answers  Wrong answers  Banked					
<b>Final Round</b> 1 2 3 4 5					