

## Teaching notes

This activity could be used with a whole class as a starter or a plenary. The class could be split into teams or students could have mini whiteboards which they hold up when they have decided on an answer.

Read the statements out one at a time. If students guess the object after one clue they get 5 points, after the second clue they get 4 points, etc.

If the game is played in groups, each student could be given a set of statements to test the others in the group.

As an extension, students could write up with their own five statements about an object and then play the game with a partner.

Object	Statements	Points
Solar system	It has its origins about 4.5 billion years ago.	5
	The force of gravity pulled it together out of a cloud of gas and dust.	4
	It formed gradually.	3
	The Sun is at the centre of it.	2
	It also includes eight planets that orbit the Sun.	1
the Sun	It is a medium-sized star.	5
	It is very hot.	4
	It is a million times the size of Earth.	3
	Its surface is known as the 'photosphere'.	2
	It is made up of mostly hydrogen and helium.	1
Jupiter	It has a strong magnetic field.	5
	It does not have a solid surface.	4
	It contains the 'Great Red Spot'.	3
	It is composed mainly of hydrogen and helium, hence it is also called a 'gas giant'.	2
	It is the largest of all the planets.	1
Earth	Carbon can be found throughout its crust.	5
	It is not as hot as Mercury, but not as cold as Neptune.	4
	It is also known as the 'blue planet' as it has so much water.	3
	It is the third planet from the Sun.	2
	It is the only known planet to support life.	1
the Moon	It is thought to have formed some 4.5 billion years ago.	5
	It passes through 'phases'.	4
	It has darkened patches on its surface, known as 'seas' or 'marias'.	3
	It is the Earth's only natural satellite.	2
	Its gravitational pull affects the tides on the Earth.	1

comets	They are thought to originate from the Kuiper Belt or the Oort Cloud.	5
	They are mainly made up of ice, dust and carbon compounds.	4
	They are usually at least one kilometre in diameter.	3
	They move in regular orbits around the Sun.	2
	They have a head and a tail.	1
Pluto	It was discovered in 1930.	5
	It is frozen and dark.	4
	It has a moon called 'Charon' that is nearly half as big as itself.	3
	It has a rocky core that is thought to be covered with frozen nitrogen, methane and carbon monoxide.	2
	In 2006 it was demoted to a 'dwarf planet'.	1
asteroids	They each rotate around a central axis at different speeds.	5
	There are more than 360 000, although far fewer have actually been given names.	4
	They are irregular in shape and vary in size from less than one kilometre to more than several hundred kilometres in diameter.	3
	Ceres is thought to be the largest known one, with a diameter of over 900 kilometres.	2
	They are mostly found in a belt between Mars and Jupiter.	1
the Milky Way	It contains between 200 and 400 billion stars and is about 120 000 light years across.	5
	It consists of gas, dust and dark matter.	4
	It looks like a disc shape with arms spiralling from it.	3
	It is thought that there is a massive black hole at its centre.	2
	It appears hazy and white in the night sky, a little like milk.	1
Neptune	It has a small, rocky core, surrounded by a deep ocean of liquid and gases.	5
	It is slightly smaller than Uranus, but about four times the diameter of Earth.	4
	It is a gas giant.	3
	It is blue in colour, due to the presence of methane.	2
	It is the furthest planet from the Sun.	1