

SOLAR SYSTEM WALK!

Have you a hike or walk planned for your group?

Here is how to easily add a spacey-spice to your event.

You need to know roughly how far you intend to walk. You can use maps or online tools to work this out. An example of a 1 km route is given; double, triple or multiply up if you are going further!

Tell your group that the Sun is at one of end of the walk and Pluto, representing the outer part of the solar system is at the other end. If you want to double back on yourself, then turn around at Uranus and walk back.

The table on the following page gives the average distances to the orbit of each planet. Each 1 m (a big step) is roughly 6 million km, making the whole solar system of 6 billion km fit into a walk of approximately 1000 m.



PLANET	AVERAGE DISTANCE FROM SUN		HOW FAR TO WALK FROM PREVIOUS ORBIT
	KILOMETRES (KM)	ASTRONOMICAL UNITS (AU)**	PACES (1M)
MERCURY	58 MILLION	0.39	10
VENUS	108 MILLION	0.72	8
EARTH	150 MILLION	1.00	7
MARS	228 MILLION	1.52	13
JUPITER	778 MILLION	5.20	92
SATURN	1430 MILLION	9.54	108
URANUS	2870 MILLION	19.18	240
NEPTUNE	4500 MILLION	30.06	271
PLUTO	5900 MILLION	39.48 (FROM 29.6 TO 49.3)	234

TOTAL DISTANCE COVERED: 983 M

**Note 1 AU = the average distance from the Sun to the Earth.

You can compare to an actual map of your location with this website: <http://umanitoba.ca/observatory/outreach/solarsystem/>



Our Planet • Our Space • Our Time
SPACE WEEK