SOLAR SYSTEM WALK!

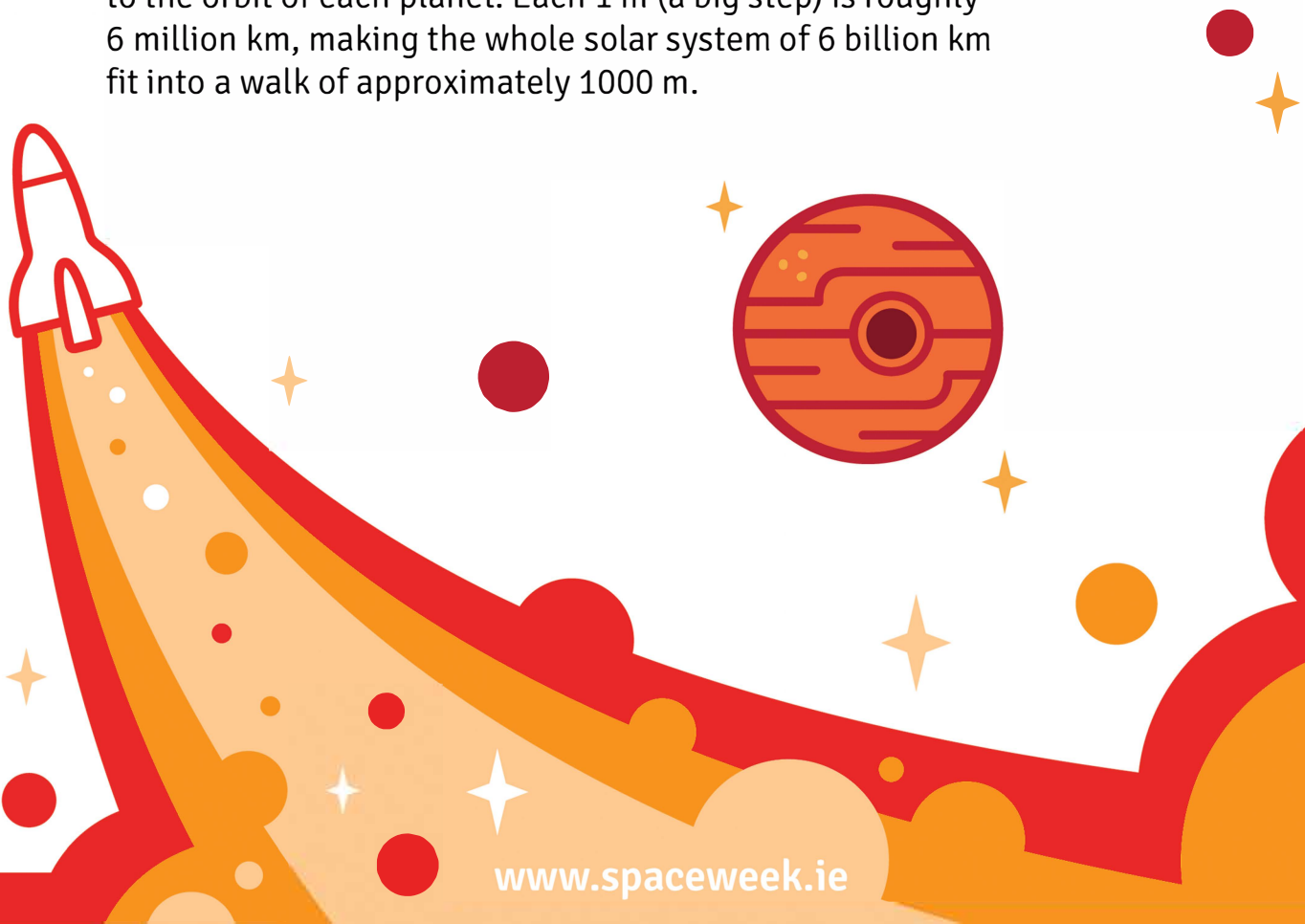
Have you a hike or walk planned for your group?

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 at 'Map a Model Solar System' at PBSLearning

SPACE WEEK

Our Planet • Our Space • Our Time