



girl scouts
of southern arizona



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

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The updated version of the *What's in a Name?* icebreaker contains 26 sample information cards, typeset three per page. These cards contain information about Solar System objects, stars, surface features, and other space-related topics. There are also 78 answer cards, typeset six per page. Each information card has three matching answer cards.

The answer cards contain both a one or two word “answer” (a few are longer) and a short description related to the information card. It is necessary to read both the information and answer cards carefully. In a few cases, a word may relate to one or more information cards (Einstein could relate to a lunar crater or a spacecraft).

Depending on the number of participants, the cards can be used in several ways. For up to 26 participants, everyone receives one information card and three random description cards. The goal is to find both the matches for your own information card and the persons who need your answer cards. For a larger audience, give the information cards to half the group and 1, 2, or 3 answer cards to the other half.

The idea of matching information statements and answers can be simplified, expanded, and reorganized in a variety of ways. The information statements can be simplified to “Planets: Eight large bodies which orbit our Sun” with the eight planet names (and perhaps their order from the Sun) as the answer cards. The same could be done for “Constellations: Groups of stars which form patterns” with the several common constellations as answers (e.g., Cygnus, the Swan; Pegasus, the Winged Horse, etc.).

While there is a wealth of information contained in the sample card set, the most valuable part of assembling the activity was the research that went into finding appropriate questions and answers, and the challenge of writing “clues” and answers that were specific enough to make the matches possible while allowing some room for debate.

Teachers and students should try creating their own versions of *What's in a Name?* to fit the topics in their own Astronomy or Space Science unit!

