

"This game kicks you more often than it gives you a pat on the back," McDowell said. "It's hard to win."

Meteor showers are caused by dust- to pebble-size debris shed from comets or asteroids. #GAM2013
#randomastrofact

Mercury and Venus are the only planets without Moons.
Earth has one. Mars has two. The rest have dozens.
#GAM2013 #randomastrofact

A light-year isn't a unit of time, but a unit of distance.

It's how far light travels in 1 year: 6 trillion miles.

#GAM2013 #randomastrofact

Light emitted from the Sun's surface takes about 8 minutes to reach Earth. #GAM2013 #randomastrofact

Light emitted from the Sun's core takes hundreds of thousands of years to reach the surface. #GAM2013

#randomastrofact

Jupiter is more massive than all the other planets of our solar system combined. #GAM2013

#randomastrofact

Venus is sometimes called "Earth's twin." Hardly! It's hotter than an oven and spins backwards! #GAM2013
#randomastrofact

It takes the Sun more than 200 millions years to make one trip around the Milky Way Galaxy. #GAM2013

#randomastrofact

About 95% of the universe is made of dark matter and dark energy. We don't know much about either.

#GAM2013 #randomastrofact

The stuff that makes up planets, stars, and people
amounts to only about 5% of the universe. #GAM2013
#randomastrofact

What determines how long a star shines? Only one thing: its mass. Less massive stars shine longer.

#GAM2013 #randomastrofact

Earth is closest to the Sun in January and farthest from the Sun in July. #GAM2013 #randomastrofact

Many of the atoms in our bodies were created inside stars. Joni Mitchell was right! We ARE stardust!

#GAM2013 #randomastrofact

In a dark, moonless sky, you can see about 4,000 stars.
In a city sky, sadly, you may see no more than a few
hundred. #GAM2013 #randomastrofact

The planet Saturn is less dense than water. If you could put it in a giant bathtub, it would float! #GAM2013

#randomastrofact

Even the fastest spacecraft ever launched would need
70,000 years to reach the nearest star. #GAM2013
#randomastrofact

Earth is the only planet not named after a Roman or
Greek god. #GAM2013 #randomastrofact