DoodleBeez Worksheets

Grades 6 to 8 | Science

Name: Date: Score: / 8

Galaxies and Light Years: Learn and Practice

Explore stars, galaxies and huge distances.

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

💡 Galaxies

- A galaxy is a huge group of stars, gas and dust held together by gravity.
- Our solar system is in the Milky Way galaxy.
- A light year is the distance light travels in one year.
- nearest star system to the Sun: about 4 light years away

1 What does a light year measure?

A. Distance B. Brightness C. Mass D. Time

2 What shape is the Milky Way?

A. A perfect ball B. A straight line

C. A barred spiral D. A cube

3 🌌 What is a galaxy?

A. A rain cloud in space

B. A planet with many moons

C. A huge system of stars held by gravity

D. A single very bright star

4 ☀️ What is the Sun?

A. A planet B. A moon C. A galaxy D. A star

5 What force holds a galaxy together?

A. Gravity B. Friction C. Wind D. Magnetism

6 Which is the nearest large spiral galaxy to the Milky Way?

A. Jupiter B. Andromeda C. The Sun

D. Alpha Centauri

7 What is the name of our galaxy?

A. The Milky Way B. The Solar Way

C. Andromeda D. The Big Dipper

8 What is the nearest star system to our solar system?

A. Alpha Centauri B. Polaris

C. The Orion Nebula D. Andromeda

✏️ Explain it! Write two facts you learned about galaxies and light years.

ANSWER KEY

Galaxies and Light Years: Learn and Practice (answers)

Explore stars, galaxies and huge distances.

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

1 What does a light year measure?

A. Distance B. Brightness C. Mass D. Time

Even though it has the word year in it, a light year is a distance: how far light travels in one year.

2 What shape is the Milky Way?

A. A perfect ball B. A straight line

C. A barred spiral D. A cube

The Milky Way is a flat spinning disc with spiral arms and a bar shaped center.

3 🌌 What is a galaxy?

A. A rain cloud in space

B. A planet with many moons

C. A huge system of stars held by gravity

D. A single very bright star

A galaxy holds billions of stars, plus gas and dust, all held together by gravity.

4 ☀️ What is the Sun?

A. A planet B. A moon C. A galaxy **D. A star**

The Sun is a star, just one of hundreds of billions of stars in the Milky Way.

5 What force holds a galaxy together?

A. Gravity B. Friction C. Wind D. Magnetism

Gravity pulls all the stars, gas and dust toward each other and keeps the galaxy together.

6 Which is the nearest large spiral galaxy to the Milky Way?

A. Jupiter **B. Andromeda** C. The Sun

D. Alpha Centauri

Andromeda is a big spiral galaxy about 2.5 million light years away. The others are not galaxies.

7 What is the name of our galaxy?

A. The Milky Way B. The Solar Way

C. Andromeda D. The Big Dipper

We live in the Milky Way. On a dark night you can see part of it as a faint band of light.

8 What is the nearest star system to our solar system?

A. Alpha Centauri B. Polaris

C. The Orion Nebula D. Andromeda

Alpha Centauri is a small group of stars a bit more than 4 light years away.