

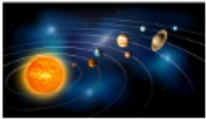
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Crash Course Astronomy #37: The Milky Way

Name: _____ Date: _____

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1. The Milky Way galaxy is a vast, flat, _____-shaped collection of gas, dust, and stars.
2. The Sun is located about _____ light years from the center of the galaxy.
3. The Milky Way has two major spiral arms and two _____ ones.
4. The bright band seen in the night sky was named the "Milky Way" because of its _____ color.
5. _____ is the name for spherical clusters of stars that orbit the Milky Way outside its main disk.
6. Interstellar _____ blocks visible light, hiding stars from view and making it difficult to map the galaxy using star counts alone.
7. The spiral arms of the galaxy are not structures but rather _____ of stars and nebulae.
8. Spiral arms appear blue because they contain young, hot, massive stars formed in _____.
9. Our Sun is located just outside a minor arm called the _____ Arm.
10. The center of the galaxy contains a bright bulge, which is actually a _____ of old, red stars.
11. The very center of the galaxy hosts a supermassive _____ with about four million times the mass of the Sun.
12. The Milky Way is surrounded by a vast spherical _____ of old stars.
13. The spiral arm pattern is maintained because of continuous _____ formation in those regions.
14. Unlike spiral arms, the central bar rotates as a _____ unit.
15. The Milky Way is just one of many galaxies in the _____.

Crash Course Astronomy #37: The Milky Way KEY

1. The Milky Way galaxy is a vast, flat, **disk**-shaped collection of gas, dust, and stars.
2. The Sun is located about **25,000** light years from the center of the galaxy.
3. The Milky Way has two major spiral arms and two **minor** ones.
4. The bright band seen in the night sky was named the "Milky Way" because of its **milky** color.
5. **Globular clusters** is the name for spherical clusters of stars that orbit the Milky Way outside its main disk.
6. Interstellar **dust** blocks visible light, hiding stars from view and making it difficult to map the galaxy using star counts alone.
7. The spiral arms of the galaxy are not structures but rather **traffic jams** of stars and nebulae.
8. Spiral arms appear blue because they contain young, hot, massive stars formed in **nebulae**.
9. Our Sun is located just outside a minor arm called the **Orion** Arm.
10. The center of the galaxy contains a bright bulge, which is actually a **bar** of old, red stars.
11. The very center of the galaxy hosts a supermassive **black hole** with about four million times the mass of the Sun.
12. The Milky Way is surrounded by a vast spherical **halo** of old stars.
13. The spiral arm pattern is maintained because of continuous **star** formation in those regions.
14. Unlike spiral arms, the central bar rotates as a **single** unit.
15. The Milky Way is just one of many galaxies in the **universe**.

15 Questions

Answer Key Included

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