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Crash Course - ASTRONOMY

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Crash Course Astronomy #36: Nebulae

Name: _____ Date: _____

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1. A _____ is a cloud of gas and dust in space.
2. An _____ nebula glows because its gas is excited by nearby starlight.
3. The red glow in most emission nebulae comes from excited _____ gas.
4. A _____ nebula shines because it reflects light from nearby stars.
5. In astronomy, "dust" refers to tiny solid particles about a _____ across.
6. Blue light is scattered more than red light, making reflection nebulae appear _____.
7. If a dust cloud is thick enough, it can completely _____ the light from a star.
8. A _____ cloud is cold enough for atoms to form molecules.
9. The _____ Nebula is a well-known emission nebula located below Orion's belt.
10. The _____ is a group of four massive stars that light up the Orion Nebula.
11. Protoplanetary disks appear in silhouette because they absorb almost all _____.
12. The process of gas being eroded by strong ultraviolet starlight is called _____.
13. The Pillars of Creation are being slowly destroyed by intense _____ light.
14. The expanding gas in a nebula can pile up against the interstellar medium, forming a _____ edge.
15. Some cold dust clouds that look dark in visible light actually glow in the _____ infrared.

Crash Course Astronomy #36: Nebulae KEY

1. A **nebula** is a cloud of gas and dust in space.
2. An **emission** nebula glows because its gas is excited by nearby starlight.
3. The red glow in most emission nebulae comes from excited **hydrogen** gas.
4. A **reflection** nebula shines because it reflects light from nearby stars.
5. In astronomy, "dust" refers to tiny solid particles about a **micron** across.
6. Blue light is scattered more than red light, making reflection nebulae appear **blue**.
7. If a dust cloud is thick enough, it can completely **extinguish** the light from a star.
8. A **molecular** cloud is cold enough for atoms to form molecules.
9. The **Orion** Nebula is a well-known emission nebula located below Orion's belt.
10. The **Trapezium** is a group of four massive stars that light up the Orion Nebula.
11. Protoplanetary disks appear in silhouette because they absorb almost all **light**.
12. The process of gas being eroded by strong ultraviolet starlight is called **photoevaporation**.
13. The Pillars of Creation are being slowly destroyed by intense **ultraviolet** light.
14. The expanding gas in a nebula can pile up against the interstellar medium, forming a **sharp** edge.
15. Some cold dust clouds that look dark in visible light actually glow in the **far** infrared.

15 Questions

Answer Key Included

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