



Glorious Galaxies!

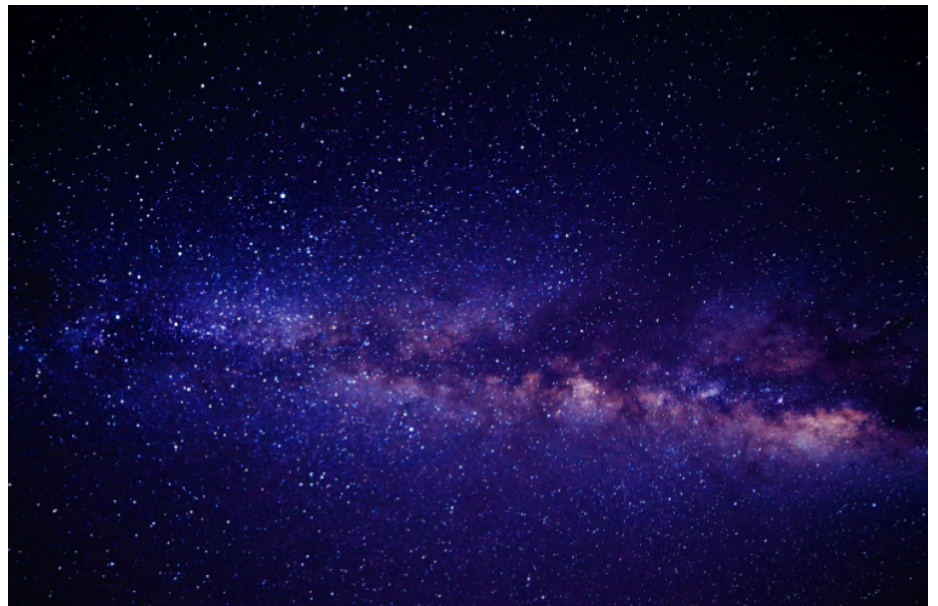


What actually is a galaxy?

A galaxy is a very large collection of gas, dust, stars and their solar systems (which include planets, moons, asteroids, comets, etc.). There are billions of galaxies out there! Some are small with only a few million stars in them, while others can have more than 400 billion stars!

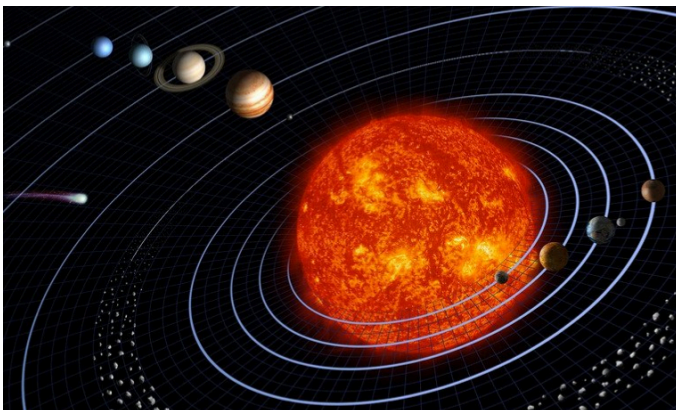
What galaxy are we in?

The galaxy that we all know the best, is called the Milky Way – and yes, we’re inside it right now. Its diameter is 100,000+ light years across and contained around 300 billion stars and at least 100 billion planets, like ours. Turns out that our star (the sun) and planet Earth are not in the middle of this big star party, we’re at least 30,000 light years away from the middle!



ACTIVITY: Let’s go star gazing!

At Twin Lakes Camp every year, we usually take the time to do some star gazing! When you get away from city lights, it’s easy to stare up and see the stars. At night, we usually stay inside and watch TV or keep our lights on. Try taking an evening to be outside and see what wonders you can see shining down on the Umpqua!



Find a nice open area, your backyard or a field to lie in after dark. Star gazing is best before the moon comes up, or when the moon is just a small sliver. You can find information here about the moon, the stars and the times to see some of our nearby planets like Mars and Venus. Click [HERE](#)!

The next Lunar Eclipse will be happening in Oregon on the night of November 29th!



Do you like Meteor Showers? Make sure to follow the American Meteor Society's website to find out when meteor showers are flying over you! There are currently 3 happening in the US right now! Learn more [HERE](#)!

Thanks for conducting science with me for this Home Explorer activity from Umpqua Watersheds Education Program.
Join me for new activities posted every week!

- Ms. Robyn

