Galaxies and the Milky Way

Zoom out from the Moon to a galaxy and put distances in order.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Put these in order, from the nearest (1) to the farthest (5)

Object	Distance from Earth	Order
Sun	8 light-minutes	
Moon	1.3 light-seconds	
Proxima Centauri	4.2 light-years	
Andromeda galaxy	2.5 million light-years	
Center of the Milky Way	26,000 light-years	

2. Match the galaxy type

1. Spiral _____
2. Elliptical _____
3. Irregular _____

A Round or oval, mostly older stars.

B No regular shape.

C Flat disk with curved arms, like the Milky Way.

1. What is a light-year? Is it a time or a distance?

2. Why do we see the Milky Way as a band of light in the sky?

3. Name our galaxy and our closest big neighbor.

(T) (F) The Sun is the only star in our galaxy.

(T) (F) Galaxies are held together by gravity.

Answer key

Galaxies and the Milky Way · for parents and teachers

1. **Order:** Moon 1, Sun 2, Proxima Centauri 3, Center of the Milky Way 4, Andromeda 5.
2. **Match:** Spiral → C, Elliptical → A, Irregular → B.
3. **Q1:** A distance: how far light travels in one year (about 5.9 trillion miles). **Q2:** Because we are inside the galaxy's disk and see millions of faint stars together. **Q3:** The Milky Way and Andromeda.
4. **True/False:** first is False (hundreds of billions of stars); second is True.

Keep exploring

Travel to galaxies in our free 3D simulator at demo.astraviator.com. Read the lesson at astraviator.com/learn/stars-and-galaxies/what-is-a-galaxy-milky-way-for-kids/.