

Name _____

What Are Stars and Galaxies?

Science Words

Say each word quietly to yourself. Then read the meaning.

Read the tip to help you remember.

astronomy [uh•STRAHN•uh•mee] the study of objects in space and their characteristics

Astronomy and *astronaut* begin the same way. An astronaut is someone who travels in space. An astronaut may do *astronomy* while in space.

stars [STARZ] huge balls of hot, glowing gas that produce their own heat and light

Some actors are *stars* because they shine or stand out from the others. *Stars* in space shine in the night sky because they give off their light.

universe [YOO•nuh•vers] everything that exists

Universe, *unite* and *unit* begin the same way. When things or people unite, they come together as a single unit. The *universe* is a way to talk about all things as a single unit.

galaxy [GAL•uks•see] a group of billions of stars, the objects that orbit the stars, gas, and dust

Galaxy, *group*, *gas*, and *gravity* begin with the same sound. A *galaxy* is a huge group of stars and gas held together by gravity.

What Are Stars and Galaxies?

Science Concepts

Read the Ideas more than once. Do your best to remember them.

1. Astronomy is the study of space and everything in it.
2. Stars form when energy stored in particles squeezed together is given off as light and heat.
3. Stars are grouped by color, temperature, brightness, and size.
4. Blue stars are the hottest stars; the sun is a medium-sized, yellow star.
5. A galaxy is made up of billions of stars, objects, gas, and dust held together by gravity.
6. Our solar system is in the Milky Way Galaxy.
7. The universe is made up of everything that exists.
8. Astronomer Edwin Hubble was the first scientist to study galaxies, in the 1920s.
9. Most galaxies in the universe are elliptical, egg-shaped; the Milky Way has a spiral shape.
10. When gravity pulls galaxies toward each other, they may crash, or collide.