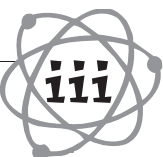


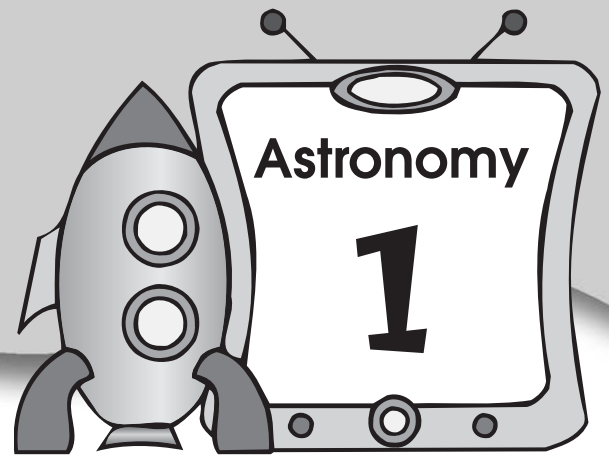
Table of Contents

Science Action Labs

1: The Universe	5
2: Astronauts in Space	9
3: Our Home Called Earth	13
4: The Sun	19
5: The Moon: Earth's Nearest Neighbor	23
6: Man on the Moon.....	28
7: The Solar System	32
8: The Planets.....	37
9: Planet Fun	41
10: The Stars	45
11: Astrology	51
12: Building a Sextant	53
13: Sunlight	56
14: Gravity	60
Answer Key	64



The Universe



Myths About the Universe

What is the universe? You and your family are part of it. Our Earth and moon are only a small part of it. The universe includes the sun and all the planets. It includes all the stars and the dust and space that reaches beyond our imagination.

People have always had myths about the universe. Myths are tales that explain the unknown. One myth told that the universe hatched from a giant egg. Another myth said the universe was created by giants. An Egyptian myth had the gods giving birth to the Earth and stars.

Not so long ago some people claimed to see a "man" in the moon. Others saw "canals" on Mars and thought that meant water and life.

Scientists now believe there is no life or water on Mars.



Imagination Time

Make up your own myth to explain how the universe was formed. Look up at the moon tonight. Do you see a "face" on the moon? Have fun drawing the moon's "face."



Facts About the Universe

How old are you? How old is your grandfather? How old is the universe? The best guess is that the universe is 15 to 20 billion years old. Can you count to a billion?

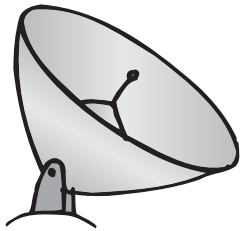
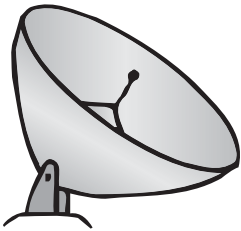
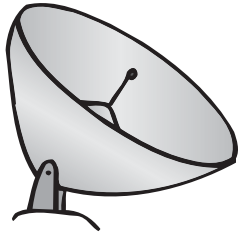
How far away from home is your school? How far away is the edge of the universe? Would you like to take a spaceship to the nearest planet? The trip could take three months. If you went to the farthest planet, it would take you 60 years. You would be a senior citizen by then.



The Universe

Let's say your spaceship could move with the speed of light. Light is so fast, it can circle the Earth almost eight times in one second. If you could ride a light beam, it would still take four years to reach the nearest star. It would take 10 billion years to reach the farthest star.

How was the universe formed? People have different ideas about how it all began. The big bang theory says that all matter in the universe was packed into a small, dense ball. An explosion blew all the matter outward to form the stars and planets. Some scientists say the universe is still expanding.



Life in the Universe

The Earth is a great planet for life. It has water, air and the right temperature. Is there life somewhere else in the universe? Nobody knows for sure.

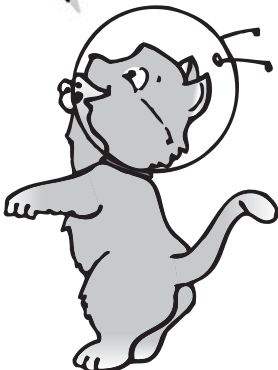
Does life elsewhere in the universe have to look and live like us? No, life could take many forms. Could living creatures in the universe be as intelligent as we are? Could they be more intelligent? What do you think?

Is there life on distant stars? Probably not; star temperatures seem much too high to support life. But there could be planets around stars that have the air, water and temperature to support life.

Planet Earth circles our star, the sun. There are probably millions of planets circling stars in our universe.

For many years we have been listening for radio messages from our universe. So far we have heard nothing. For many years we have been sending radio messages into space. We have sent music, maps and symbols. We are still waiting for an answer.

Hello!
Is there
anyone
out
there?



Making Contact

You have just been appointed the Earth's top scientist. What drawings, photos or symbols will you send to intelligent beings in space? Write or draw your best ideas in the boxes.

