

Encouraging Inquisitive Learning

## Test-1-Key

- 1. A light year is the distance that light travels in one year in the vacuum of space. Light travels at a speed of approximately 300,000 kilometers per second. In one year, light covers about 9.46 trillion kilometers. It is a unit of measurement used to express astronomical distances. For example, the nearest star to Earth, Proxima Centauri, is about 4.24 light years away.
- 2. The most accepted theory about the formation of the universe is the Big Bang Theory. It suggests that the universe began approximately 13.8 billion years ago from a hot, dense, and singular point. This event caused a massive expansion, leading to the formation of galaxies, stars, and planets. Evidence supporting this theory includes cosmic microwave background radiation and the redshift of galaxies. It marks the beginning of time and space as we know it.
- 3. A galaxy is a vast system of stars, gas, dust, and dark matter held together by gravity. Galaxies vary in size and can contain billions of stars. Common shapes of galaxies include spiral (e.g., the Milky Way), elliptical, and irregular galaxies. Spiral galaxies have a flat disk with spiral arms, while elliptical galaxies are spherical or oval. Irregular galaxies have no definite shape.
- 4. Constellations are groups of stars that form recognizable patterns in the night sky. They are often named after mythological figures, animals, or objects. Examples include Orion (The Hunter), Ursa Major (The Great Bear), and Cassiopeia (The Queen). These patterns are used for navigation and storytelling in various cultures. They do not represent actual physical groupings but appear so from Earth.
- 5. The terrestrial planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars. These planets are rocky, dense, and have solid surfaces. They are located closest to the sun and have relatively smaller sizes compared to gas giants. Each has distinct features, such as Earth's habitability, Mars's red surface, Venus's thick atmosphere, and Mercury's extreme temperatures. They are also known as inner planets.



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- 6. The planets with rings are Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Saturn is most famous for its prominent and bright ring system, made up of ice and rock particles. Jupiter's rings are faint and composed mainly of dust. Uranus has thin rings with a dark appearance, and Neptune's rings are faint and fragmented. These rings vary in size, thickness, and composition.
- 7. Venus is the hottest planet due to its thick atmosphere composed mostly of carbon dioxide, which causes a runaway greenhouse effect. The surface temperature reaches up to 475°C, making it hotter than Mercury, even though Mercury is closer to the sun. Its brilliance comes from its highly reflective cloud layers, which reflect sunlight effectively. Venus is also visible from Earth as the "Morning Star" or "Evening Star." This makes it the brightest natural object in the night sky after the moon.
- 8. The moon is tidally locked with Earth, meaning its rotation period matches its orbital period around Earth. This results in one side of the moon always facing Earth while the other side, known as the far side, remains hidden. This synchronization is due to gravitational forces between Earth and the moon. The far side of the moon was first seen by humans through spacecraft. This phenomenon gives the moon a unique dynamic in Earth's sky.
- 9. Shooting stars are not actually stars; they are meteoroids that enter Earth's atmosphere and burn up due to friction with air. This burning process creates a bright streak of light across the sky, often referred to as a meteor. Most meteors disintegrate before reaching the Earth's surface. Larger meteoroids that survive and land on Earth are called meteorites. These events are common and can be seen during meteor showers.
- 10. The moon plays a vital role in stabilizing Earth's tilt, which maintains consistent seasonal patterns. Its gravitational pull causes tides, which are crucial for marine ecosystems and nutrient cycles. The moonlight has been significant for nocturnal animals and early human navigation. It also slows Earth's rotation gradually, ensuring long-term climate stability. Additionally, the moon inspires exploration and cultural significance throughout history.