

Name: Class Copy

Period: Subject: Int Science

Activity 1 - History and Scale of the Solar System

Read - Questions

Distances in the universe:

1. Explain what an “astronomical unit” or AU is. How many kilometers is this?
2. What types of distances or measurements would you use astronomical units for?
3. What is a “light year”? How many kilometers is a light year?
4. What types of distances or objects would you use light years for?

The Nebular Theory:

5. What is a nebula made of?
6. What force pulls the nebulas together to form stars or planets?
7. What is “nuclear fusion”?
8. What causes the nebula to start nuclear fusion as a star is forming? (In other words, what makes the sun start shining?!)

The birth of the planets:

9. For each of the following residents of our solar system, describe where they are found in the solar system and what they are mainly composed of:
 - a. The terrestrial planets
 - b. The gas giants
 - c. The asteroids
 - d. Comets

Where is the Solar System in Our Galaxy?:

10. What is a “galaxy”?
11. Where is our solar system within the Milky Way?