

## Starry Sights

Unlike planets, stars create their own light. (Our sun is actually a large star called yellow dwarf) A group of stars held together by gravity is called a "galaxy". Our solar system is part of the Milky Way Galaxy. It's called that because all the stars clustered together look like a milky river in the night sky. Scientists don't know the exact number of stars in the universe, but in our galaxy alone there are more than 300 billion stars!

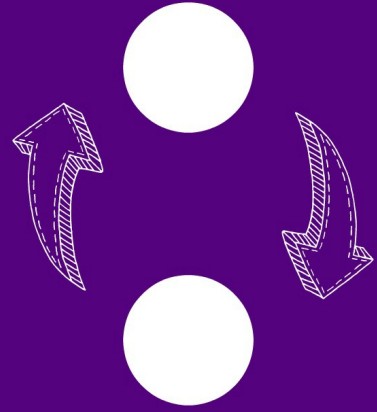
## Sky Scientists

"Astronomers are scientists who explore space without ever leaving the ground. Using powerful telescopes and computer software, they make important observations about stars, planets, and black holes. Some people also study astronomy for fun! These amateur astronomers can often help with important research. Many comets were discovered by amateur astronomers.

## Moon Phases



## True or False?



## Space Explorers

The first astronaut blasted into outer space in 1961. Since then, more than 500 people have traveled out of this world! Today, astronauts can work at the International Space Station—a giant laboratory that orbits Earth. At the space station, astronauts do experiments that help us learn about biology, medicine, physics, and many other subjects.

