

QUICK ASTRONOMY QUIZ

Kids – 3 points for a correct answer

Teenagers – 2 points for a correct answer

Grown-ups – 1 point for a correct answer

Astronomers – half a point for a correct answer but a forfeit of minus 10 points for a wrong answer!

Do all the questions, write answers down on a piece of paper. See if the kids can beat the grown-ups! Answers at

1. What is the largest planet in our solar system?
2. There is a neighbouring galaxy larger than our own heading towards our own Milky Way Galaxy. It is currently about 2.5 million light years away. It takes its name from one of the constellations. What is it called?
3. What is the name of the spacecraft that is the furthest out into space – was launched in the 1970's and is now at a region of our solar system known as the heliopause.
4. In the outer regions of our solar system in an area known as the Kuiper Belt, there are several dwarf planets. Pluto is one of them, having been "relegated" from the league of the main planets a few years ago, partly due to the recent discovery of these other minor planets. Can you name at least one of them?
5. What is the name given to the as-yet-undiscovered stuff (which may even turn out not to exist at all!) that is supposed to prevent the outer stars of galaxies from flying off into intergalactic space, by exerting extra gravitational attraction?
6. What is the most distant star **easily** visible to the unaided eye?
7. How far is the sun away from us (average distance)?
8. Distances between stars are measured in light years, the distance light travels through empty space in a year. How fast does light actually travel in km or miles per second?
9. Which three planets in our solar system, other than Saturn, have rings?
10. What is the brightest star in the night sky to our eyes?