

PLAY & LEARN WITH ASTRONOMY QUIZ



1. How many constellations are officially recognized?

A 12

B 88

C Over a million



2. What term do astronomers use to describe the two times a year when day and night are of equal length?

A solstice

B blue moon

C equinox



3. What term describes the effect where stars appear to move as the Earth moves?

A Parallax

B Polaris

C Scintillation



4. Which planet has the largest moon in the solar system?

A Earth

B Uranus

C Jupiter



5. What does a light-year measure?

A Brightness

B Time

C Distance



6. Which of the following best describes a supernova?

- A a fast-moving meteor**
- B a pair of conjoined stars**
- C a bright explosion**



7. Who discovered that the planets travel in an ellipse, rather than a circle?

- A Edwin Hubble**
- B Isaac Newton**
- C Johannes Kepler**



8 What is the name of the North Star?

A Vega

B Parallax

C Polaris



9. What is the scientific term behind why the stars twinkle?

A Parallax

B Albedo

C Scintillation



10. Which of the following planets is NOT considered one of the gas giants?

- A Mars**
- B Jupiter**
- C Saturn**



11. How much of the Milky Way is visible?

- A Less than 5 percent**
- B Around 50 percent**
- C More than 90 percent**



12. What is at the center of the Milky Way galaxy?

- A A black hole**
- B The sun**
- C The planet Earth**



13. On what planet will you find the largest volcano in the solar system?

A Mars

B Earth

C Neptune



14. Which planet has the most moons?

- A Venus**
- B Mercury**
- C Jupiter**



15. What is a Nebula?

- A a crashed comet**
- B a cloud of space dust**
- C a burned out star**



ANSWERS

Ans 1 (B) The International Astronomical Union recognizes 88 official constellations.

Ans 2 (C) The equinox, which occurs in March and September, is a period when the sun is directly over the equator, resulting in days and nights being of equal length.

Ans 3 (A) Parallax allowed ancient astronomers to calculate the distance between the Earth and various stars by studying the change in their positions as the Earth revolved around the sun.

Ans 4 (C) Jupiter's moon Ganymede is not only the largest moon in the solar system, but is actually bigger than the planet Mercury.

Ans 5 (C) light-year measures the distance that light can travel in a single year. This type of measurement is necessary in space, where something as insignificant as a mile or kilometer just won't do.

Ans 6 (C) supernova is an explosion in space. It creates a bright spot that looks like a new star, but then fades away over time.

Ans 7 (C) '**Johannes Kepler** , in the 17th century, and described this in his first law of planetary motion.'

Ans 8 (C) Polaris is the current North Star, but Vega will take over in a few thousand years as the Earth shifts its position over time.

Ans 9 (C) Scintillation, which gives us twinkling stars to gaze upon, is caused by turbulence in the Earth's atmosphere.

Ans 10 (A) The four planets farthest from the sun — Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune — are called gas giants thanks to their gaseous composition.

Ans 11 (A) Less than 5 percent of the Milky Way galaxy is visible; the other 95 percent is made up of dark matter and dark energy.

Ans 12 (A) A massive black hole — with a mass four million times that of the sun — sits at the center of the Milky Way.

Ans 13 (A) Mars is home to Olympus Mons, the largest volcano in the solar system. It's about 100 times bigger than the largest volcano here on Earth.

Ans 14 (C) With 63 moons, Jupiter has more than any other planet; Venus and Mercury have no moons at all.

Ans 15 (B) A nebula is simply a cloud of space dust and various gases. It may represent a newly forming star or one that is close to the end of its life.

THANKS

