

Inside Our Galaxy

Read closely to identify what makes a galaxy and where Earth belongs.

SC.5.E.5.1 "Recognize that a galaxy consists of gas, dust, and many stars, including any objects orbiting the stars. Identify our home galaxy as the Milky Way."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that tell what a galaxy contains, circle the name of our home galaxy, and number the four kinds of objects in the passage that orbit stars.

A Galaxy Around Us

- ① On a clear night, the bright band called the Milky Way can look like a cloudy stripe across the sky. It is not a cloud in Earth's air. It is our home galaxy, a huge collection held together by gravity. From inside it, we see many of its stars spread across the night sky above us.
- ② A galaxy is much more than a group of stars. It contains enormous clouds of gas and tiny bits of dust between the stars. A galaxy also includes many stars and the objects that orbit those stars. Planets, dwarf planets, asteroids, and comets can travel around a star as parts of its star system, too.
- ③ The Milky Way is only one galaxy in the universe, but it is the one that includes our solar system. Our Sun is one of the Milky Way's many stars. Earth is a planet that orbits the Sun, so Earth and the other objects orbiting the Sun are part of the Milky Way as well.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What three main things does the passage say a galaxy contains?

2 Name two kinds of objects from the passage that directly orbit a star.

3 Why is Earth part of the Milky Way?

4 What is the Milky Way, and why can it look like a cloudy stripe in the night sky?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Invent a name for a galaxy and write exactly three sentences about it. Include gas, dust, and many stars, name two kinds of objects that orbit its stars, and state that it is not the Milky Way, our home galaxy.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words that tell what a galaxy contains, circle the name of our home galaxy, and number the four kinds of objects in the passage that orbit stars. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What three main things does the passage say a galaxy contains?	Gas, dust, and many stars.
2	Name two kinds of objects from the passage that directly orbit a star.	Any two: planets, dwarf planets, asteroids, or comets.
3	Why is Earth part of the Milky Way?	Earth orbits the Sun, and the Sun is one of the Milky Way's many stars.
4	What is the Milky Way, and why can it look like a cloudy stripe in the night sky?	The Milky Way is our home galaxy. From inside it, many of its stars can appear spread across the night sky like a cloudy stripe.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Lantern Galaxy has clouds of gas, dust, and many stars. Planets and comets orbit some of its stars. It is not the Milky Way, because the Milky Way is our home galaxy.

Accept answers that identify gas, dust, and many stars as galaxy contents. For objects orbiting stars, accept only planets, dwarf planets, asteroids, or comets named in the passage.