

## Astronomy Conversation

October 20, 2020, My wife and I attended a Birthday Party! Sky's whole family was there celebrating the Birthday of Brittany Fillmore and AnnMarie Turnbow! I took this opportunity to ask as many people as I could about what they knew about Astronomy! I easily found out that the word Astronomy itself is received as what is referred to as "a big word" and if you can say it correctly you sound smart! I found this whole experience of asking everyone I could about what they knew about the universe inspiring and worth doing yourself! Ultimately, it was super fun and very beneficial to me in a lot of ways. I further developed my communication skills. I learned so much about each other's thoughts and opinions and we had a wonderful, open, in depth conversation about astronomy! This assignment is such a great conversation starter!

I made a list of all of the questions I was asked during this experience and I look forward to sharing them with you here. I will also do my best to answer each question and cite my source. I gathered these questions from my grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins in law. Everyone is at least 25 years of age and a maximum of 70 years of age. I think their age range provides an interesting study. Everyone has gone through high school and has had years of experience living on earth. Data I later acquired was full of questions, facts, and opinions. I am going to start by introducing you to a guest I met at the birthday party and describing what they had to say about astronomy. I will then provide my response to what they said with either an answer to their question with a source I trust or I will share my opinion about what they found interesting.

1. Sky Johnson said, "It is so interesting how planets orbit a big star."

- I agree I think the fact we have our own solar system is amazing. From [nasa.gov](https://www.nasa.gov) I found "A planet must do three things: it must orbit a star, it must be big enough to have enough gravity to force a spherical shape, and it must be big enough that its gravity cleared away any objects of a similar

## Astronomy Conversation

size near its orbit. This cosmic cloud, called [Sharpless 2-106](#), is an area where stars (and planets) form.”

2. Grandpa Brown said, “It is interesting how big the Universe is.”

I found that I agree with this great article titled, “[How Big is Our Universe?](#)”. My short answer is that no one knows how big the universe is! One fun fact this article points out that I like is, “Our sun, the nearest star, is 93 million miles away, That’s why the sun, which is a million times the size of the Earth, looks so small. It would take the Space Shuttle seven months to fly there...”. I am starstruck at the size of our universe!

3. Uncle Tyler asked, “How does time in space work?”

[Measuring time in deep space: Posted by EarthSky Voices in Human World](#)

I agree that we can measure distance with time. According to this article, everyone assumes that we use time to “navigate our way to the destinations that matter to us. In school we learned that speed and time will tell us how far we went in traveling from point A to point B; with a map we can pick the most efficient route - simple. But what if point A is the Earth, and point B is Mars - is it still that simple? Conceptually, yes, But to actually do it we need better tools - much better tools.”

4. Aunt AnnMarie said, “It is interesting how we are always spinning.”

[Why can't we feel Earth's spin?: Posted by EarthSky in Earth](#)

In short, “We can’t feel Earth rotating because we’re all moving with it, at the same constant speed.” Honestly, I am still in wonder about the fact our earth is constantly spinning and how the earth is also orbiting the sun. I love learning

## Astronomy Conversation

about this stuff because people do put a lot of time and energy to make sure science is validated and proven without a shred of doubt! I love that we live in this time with such smart people creating amazing discoveries and technologies that will last until the end of time!

5. Brittany asked, “How can a star look bright and alive but in reality it is dead?”

This article I will use to answer this question is so interesting and informative I recommend it to you because I really think you would agree how great of a read it is! [Ask Ethan: How Many Stars In The Night Sky Still Exist?](#)

6. Grandma Brown said, “I think there are aliens because there are other solar systems just like ours.”

I personally agree with this statement, I hope there are other solar systems like ours and we all remain great friends forever ! I found an article that I agree with to further express my opinion. [NASA finds another solar system with 9 planets just like ours](#). I do want to point out this is an article from [Hindustantimes](#), I cannot underestimate or over validate the validity of this source that would require additional research! ;) In all honesty this is a great read that I find very interesting and does point you in the direction to verify the validity of their own statements, definitely worth the read!

Overall I had a great experience talking about astronomy with my family. I will continue to do this at many more occasions because astronomy truly inspires and intrigues me to be a more knowledgeable person that fact checks their sources. I want to be a lighthouse of truth! I think it is great to make the world a

## Astronomy Conversation

better place with everybody involved. I hope we continue our research in astronomy and create a future that is better than “anyone” could ever imagine! If we all work together to make the world a better place I don’t think anything can stop us from making our solar system a better place as well! I look forward to our future of cultivating our species in space!