

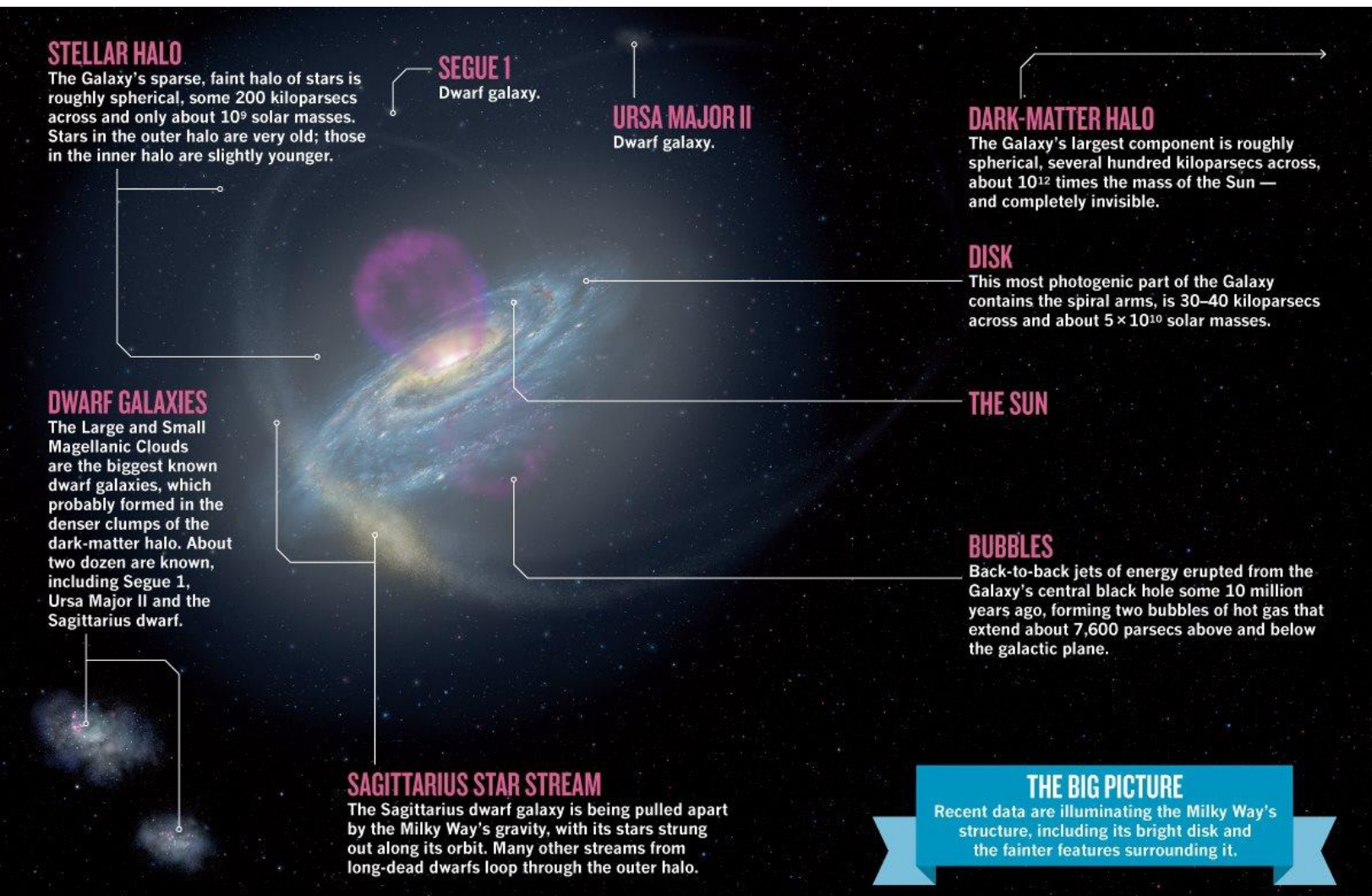
WHAT IS A GALAXY?

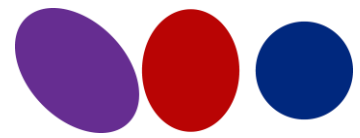
Galaxies are concentrations of stars, gas, dust, and dark matter all held together by gravity. Many galaxies are spiral galaxies, but there are also elliptical and irregular galaxies. Most large galaxies have a supermassive black hole at their centers.

Small Galaxies serve as building blocks for larger galaxies or draw near to their hulking neighbors. Scientists have now found nearly 60 small Galaxies orbiting the Milky Way, and think there may be scores more still undetected

ACTIVITIES

1. Divide the class into the elliptical, spiral, and irregular Galaxies. Have them research their categories.
2. Ask each group to think of words that rhyme with “Galaxy.”





NAME THE GALAXIES





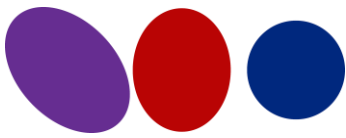








ASK EACH STUDENT'S FAVORITE GALAXY



MILKY WAY

There may be trillions of Galaxies in the Universe, but that does not mean the Milky Way is not special. In fact, large Galaxies like our own are often the exception, not the norm. Our Universe is populated by a plethora of small and faint Galaxies.

In ELLIPSES, Milky Way is the baby sibling and one of Singularity's six kids. They are going through warps, waves, and wrinkles (galactic puberty). Their major big production number near the end of the first act is "Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles": https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/12-warps_waves_and_wrinkles

ACTIVITIES

1. Discuss how the Milky Way came to be.
2. Ask each student to draw what they think the Milky Way looks like.
3. Listen to the song, "Warps, Waves, and Wrinkles." Name the arms of the Milky Way. Ask which arm we live on.
4. Discuss the merging of Andromeda and Milky Way in a few billion years. Can your class figure out what a red giant is in the personification of a human anatomy?
5. Discuss the journey that Milky Way is following as it relates to child development from childhood to adolescence.
6. Ask each student to think of a Milky Way in their lives, whether it is their younger sibling or friend.