

# Astronomy through practical investigations

## lab 28 answer key

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**What questions does astronomy answer?**

**What do you learn in astronomy 100?** ASTR 100 Introduction to Astronomy  
Emphasis on how mankind has learned about the planets, stars, galaxies and their structure and formation. Quasars, pulsars, black holes and the beginning and the end of the universe are discussed.

**What is the astronomy answer?** Astronomy is the study of everything in the universe beyond Earth's atmosphere. That includes objects we can see with our naked eyes, like the Sun , the Moon , the planets, and the stars . It also includes objects we can only see with telescopes or other instruments, like faraway galaxies and tiny particles.

**What is the hardest question in astronomy?**

**Is astronomy very hard?** In fact, astronomy is a challenging science, but not because the universe is inaccessible in the conventional sense. Rather, astronomers must apply equal measures of analytic thinking and imagination, logic and intuition, to answer the most fundamental questions about the cosmos: What are stars and planets?

**Is astronomy a hard class?** Since most students who take astronomy classes are liberal arts students doing so only to get units, the classes tend to be much harder than they expect, if taught with the intention of actually teaching them something about the subject.

**What is the hardest thing to learn in astronomy?** What's the hardest thing to explain about the universe? Neil: The hardest thing, I think by far, is how we analyze spectra — light broken up into its component colors. It's so abstract, so removed from the actual object we're studying.

**What is a planet question answer?** A planet is a celestial body that (a) is in orbit around the Sun, (b) has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape, and (c) has cleared the neighborhood around its orbit.

**How old is astronomy?** The first documented records of systematic astronomical observations date back to the Assyro-Babylonians around 1000 BCE. From this cradle of civilisation in Mesopotamia – in the southern part of present-day Iraq – astronomers had built up knowledge of the celestial bodies and recorded their periodic motions.

**What is 1 in astronomy?** One astronomical unit is the approximate mean distance between Earth and the sun. It's about 93 million miles (150 million km), or 8 light-minutes.

**Is our universe ending?** The fate of the universe may be determined by its density. The preponderance of evidence to date, based on measurements of the rate of expansion and the mass density, favors a universe that will continue to expand indefinitely, resulting in the "Big Freeze" scenario below.

**How old is our universe?** Before 1999, astronomers had estimated that the age of the universe was between 7 and 20 billion years. But with advances in technology and the development of new techniques we now know the age of the universe is 13.7 billion years, with an uncertainty of only 200 million years. How did this come to be?

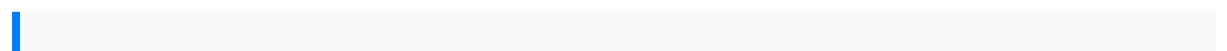
**What is the hardest planet to see?** Difficult to observe Out of the five planets known since ancient times as the 'wandering stars', Mercury is the one least explored. Unlike Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, Mercury is notoriously difficult to observe from Earth. Being the innermost planet of the Solar System, it always appears too close to the Sun.

**What are two questions that astronomers are trying to answer?** We are trying to figure out how planets form and there is a lot we don't know: (2) How turbulent are protoplanetary disks? (2) Why do we see rings on those disks? (a lot of people like to jump to "planets" but planets are not the only thing that can cause rings).

**What can astronomy tell us?** In the past, astronomy has been used to measure time, mark the seasons, and navigate the vast oceans. As one of the oldest sciences astronomy is part of every culture's history and roots. It inspires us with beautiful images and promises answers to the big questions.

**What does astronomy teach us?** Much of astronomy is concerned with understanding distant phenomena, seeing the invisible, and studying the most extreme events in the Universe.

**What are the 4 things that astronomers study?** Astronomers study the origin and structure of the universe, including its planets, stars, galaxies and black holes.



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