
EXPLORING CREATION WITH ASTRONOMY



Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	13
Module 1.....	17
MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE	
Space.....	17
Interstellar Space.....	18
The Universe	19
Normal Matter.....	19
Antimatter.....	21
Cosmic Rays.....	21
Dark Matter	22
Dark Energy	23
Black Holes	24
Wormholes	25
Temperature of the Universe.....	25
Where Do We Go From Here?	30
Module 2	31
THE HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY	
Ancient Stargazers.....	32
Chinese Astronomers.....	33
Babylonian Astronomers.....	33
Greek Astronomers.....	34
Mayan Astronomers.....	35
Renaissance Era Stargazers	36
Modern Astronomers.....	41
Where Do We Go From Here?	48
Module 3	49
UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS	
Measurement.....	49
Distance.....	50
The Astronomical Unit (AU)	51
The Light-year (LY).....	52
The Parsec.....	52
Time	57
Speed and Velocity.....	59

Mass and Weight.....	63
Gravity.....	63
Weight.....	65
Doppler Effect.....	67
Rotation.....	70
Revolution.....	70
Energy.....	71
Where Do We Go From Here?	76
Module 4.....	77
OUR SOLAR SYSTEM	
How Was the Model of Our Solar System Developed?....	77
Geocentric Universe Model.....	78
Heliocentric Universe Model	78
Mathematics of the Geocentric Universe Model— The <i>Almagest</i>	80
Support for the Heliocentric Model Continues....	83
Mathematics of the Heliocentric Universe Model— Nicolaus Copernicus.....	83
Heliocentric Universe Model—The Copernican Revolution.....	85
Heliocentric Universe Model—Refinements Since Isaac Newton.....	88
The Current Model of Our Solar System	95
Where Do We Go From Here?	98
Module 5	99
THE SUN	
How Far Away Is the Earth from the Sun?	99
How Big Is the Sun	101
Experiment: Estimate the Diameter of the Sun.....	104
How Much Mass Makes Up the Sun?.....	105
What are the Different Parts of the Sun?	108
The Sun's Core.....	108
The Radiative Zone	109
The Convection Zone.....	109
The Photosphere.....	109
The Chromosphere.....	109
The Corona.....	110
How Does the Sun Work?.....	111
Just What is Electromagnetic Energy?	115
Photons.....	117
Electromagnetic Energy Spectrum.....	118
Important Properties of Electromagnetic Energy ...	126
Electromagnetic Energy and the Sun	130
Where Do We Go From Here?	132
Module 6.....	133
THE INNER PLANETS	
Basic Orbital Mechanics	133
Perihelion and Aphelion.....	135
Orbital Inclination Angle.....	136
Planet Obliquity Angle.....	136
Orbital Speed.....	137
The Planet Mercury.....	142

Size of Mercury.....	142
Estimating the Diameter of Mercury	142
Estimating the Volume of Mercury	144
Layers of Mercury.....	144
Mercury's Surface Features.....	145
Mercury's Atmosphere and Magnetic Field	146
Temperatures on Mercury	146
Orbital Mechanics Properties of Mercury	147
Mercury Day.....	150
Moons and Rings of Mercury.....	150
Mass Property of Mercury	151
Spacecraft Missions to Mercury	151
The Planet Venus.....	154
Size of Venus.....	155
Estimating the Volume of Venus	155
Layers of Venus.....	155
Venus' Surface Features.....	156
Venus' Atmosphere and Magnetic Field	157
Temperatures on Venus	159
Orbital Mechanics Properties of Venus	160
Venus Day.....	162
Moons and Rings of Venus.....	162
Mass Property of Venus	162
Spacecraft Missions to Venus	163
The Planet Earth	166
Size of Earth	167
Estimating the Volume of Earth	167
Layers of Earth.....	168
Earth's Surface Features.....	169
Earth's Atmosphere and Magnetic Field.....	170
Temperatures on Earth.....	173
Orbital Mechanics Properties of Earth	174
Earth Day	176
Moons and Rings of Earth.....	177
Mass Property of Earth.....	177
The Planet Mars.....	180
Size of Mars.....	181
Estimating the Volume of Mars	181
The Layers of Mars.....	181
Mars' Surface Features	182
Mars' Atmosphere and Magnetic Field.....	183
Temperatures on Mars	185
Orbital Mechanics Properties of Mars.....	185
Mars Day.....	188
Moons and Rings of Mars.....	188
Mass Property of Mars	189
Spacecraft Missions to Mars	190
Where Do We Go From Here?	194

Module 7**195**

THE MOON

Size of the Moon.....	196
Estimating the Volume of the Moon	196
Layers of the Moon	196
Surface Features.....	197
The Moon's Atmosphere.....	199

The Moon's Surface Temperature	200
The Phases of the Moon	200
The Moon's Gravity.....	202
Orbital Mechanics Properties of the Moon.....	203
Where Do We Go From Here?	208
Module 8.....	209
TELESCOPES	
Optical Telescopes.....	209
The Thin Lens.....	209
The Focal Point.....	210
Where the Image Will Be Located.....	211
Magnification of the Original Object	211
Optics of Your Eye.....	217
The Optical Telescope	223
Radio Telescope	232
Infrared Telescopes.....	233
X-ray Telescopes	234
Where Do We Go From Here?	238
Module 9	239
THE OUTER PLANETS	
The Planet Jupiter.....	239
Size of Jupiter.....	240
Estimating the Volume of Jupiter	241
Layers of Jupiter.....	241
Jupiter's Surface Features	242
Jupiter's Atmospheric Layer and Magnetic Field...243	
Orbital Mechanics Properties of Jupiter	244
Jupiter Day.....	247
Moons and Rings of Jupiter	247
Mass Property of Jupiter	248
The Planet Saturn.....	252
Size of Saturn	253
Estimating the Volume of Saturn.....	253
Layers of Saturn.....	253
Saturn's Surface Features.....	255
Saturn's Atmospheric Layer and Magnetic Field ...255	
Orbital Mechanics Properties of Saturn	256
Saturn Day	259
Moons and Rings of Saturn.....	259
Mass Property of Saturn	261
The Planet Uranus	265
Size of Uranus.....	266
Estimating the Volume of Uranus.....	266
Layers of Uranus	267
Uranus' Surface Features.....	267
Uranus' Atmospheric Layer and Magnetic Field ...268	
Orbital Mechanics Properties of Uranus.....	269
Uranus Day	271
Moons and Rings of Uranus	271
Mass Property of Uranus.....	273
The Planet Neptune	275
Size of Neptune	276
Estimating the Volume of Neptune.....	276

Layers of Neptune.....	276
Neptune's Surface Features.....	278
Neptune's Upper Atmospheric Layer and Magnetic Field	278
Orbital Mechanics Properties of Neptune.....	279
Neptune Day	283
Moons and Rings of Neptune	283
Mass Property of Neptune	284
Where Do We Go From Here?.....	288

Module 10289

DWARF PLANETS & THE ASTEROID BELT

The Dwarf Planet Pluto	290
Details of Pluto.....	290
Moons Around Pluto.....	292
The Dwarf Planet Ceres.....	292
Details of Ceres.....	293
The Dwarf Planet Eris	294
Details of Eris.....	294
The Dwarf Planet Makemake.....	295
Details of Makemake	295
The Dwarf Haumea	296
Details of Planet Haumea	296
The Dwarf Planets in Review.....	296
The Asteroid Belt.....	299
Classification of Asteroids	301
Interesting Facts About the Asteroid Belt	302
Where Do We Go From Here?.....	304

Module 11305

THE UNIVERSE

How is the Universe Studied?.....	306
Electromagnetic Energy	306
Cosmic Rays	307
Objects in the Visible Universe.....	308
North Circumpolar Constellations.....	309
South Circumpolar Constellations.....	312
Northern Winter/Southern Summer Constellations.....	314
Northern Spring/Southern Autumn Constellations.....	317
Northern Summer/Southern Winter Constellations.....	320
Northern Autumn/Southern Spring Constellations.....	324
Interstellar Medium	330
Black Holes.....	331
Where Do We Go From Here?	336

Module 12.....337

THE STARS

What Makes A Star Shine?	337
Star Temperatures.....	338
Star Brightness.....	342
Brightness Magnitudes.....	347

Determining a Star's Radius.....	347
Determining the Distance to a Star.....	352
Classifying the Stars.....	355
Star Explosions	357
Where Do We Go From Here?	362
Module 13.....	363
GALAXIES	
Different Types of Galaxies.....	363
Quasars.....	366
The Milky Way Galaxy.....	368
The Local Group.....	372
Where Do We Go From Here?	374
Module 14	375
CELESTIAL NAVIGATION	
Angle Measurements	376
Addition of Angles	379
Subtraction of Angles	380
Longitude and Latitude	382
Celestial Navigation	385
Very Simple Estimation of Your Position	386
Estimation of Your Position Using a Sextant and the <i>Nautical Almanac</i>	388
Estimation of Your Position Using Other Celestial Objects.....	392
Where Do We Go From Here?	394
ANSWERS TO ON YOUR OWN QUESTIONS	395
INDEX.....	471
IMAGE CREDITS	491