

# Astro Adventures

The STARLAB News Kid's & Teacher's Page

Astro Astronomy  
is brought to you by



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**G**reetings and welcome to this new feature of the STARLAB News. This insert is designed to be a fun activity page for kids and teachers including games, puzzles and a few astro facts. Feel free to copy and use this material, or share it with a friend!

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<http://www.dirtmeister.com>

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## Science Try-It

**H**ave you ever gone out on a clear, dark night and just looked up at the sky? It's amazing just how many stars you can see, especially if you're far from the city where street and house lights don't interfere with your view. This is what the sky might have looked like for the people of ancient Greece who spent countless evenings staring out into space, trying to make sense out of the things they saw. While these people may not have looked like the scientists of today, they were keen observers of the sky.

Astronomers don't just look at the sky though, they also try to make models to explain what they see. In fact the word astronomer comes from two Greek words: "astro" meaning star and "nemein" meaning arrange. If you put the two together you'll find that the word "astronomer" literally means "arranger of the stars"!

Back in the year 140 AD an early Greek astronomer named Claudius Ptolemaeus (who today is simply known as Ptolemy), came up with a model of the universe that had the Earth in the center and all the planets, stars and even the Sun moving around us.

**T**oday, we know that it is the Earth that moves around the Sun, but if you try this **simple experiment**, you'll see why many early astronomers became confused. On the next clear day, go out early in the morning and see where the Sun is in the sky. The easiest way to do this is to locate the Sun above a landmark like a tree or building on the ground. Now, go out a few hours later and locate it again. Is it over the same mark as before? Probably not! In fact, if you mark the position of the Sun every hour during the day, you'll see that it will slowly appear to move westward across the sky, just like it would if it were going around the Earth. Since the Earth doesn't feel like it's moving, it's easy to see why the ancient astronomers came up with the model they did! What's really amazing is that this "Ptolemaic" system would stand for almost 1300 years, until a Polish astronomer named Nicolaus Copernicus came along and started a revolution!



# Astro Trivia

## Name the astronomer who made the discovery.

1. He discovered the four largest moons of Jupiter.
2. She developed the spectral classification of stars.
3. He discovered the planet Uranus.
4. He discovered that the universe was expanding.
5. She discovered that variable stars could be used to measure distance in space.
6. She discovered over a dozen comets.
7. He discovered that some comets orbited the Sun.
8. He discovered that planet's orbits were elliptical.

## Word Scramble

### Unscramble the names of these objects found in our solar system.

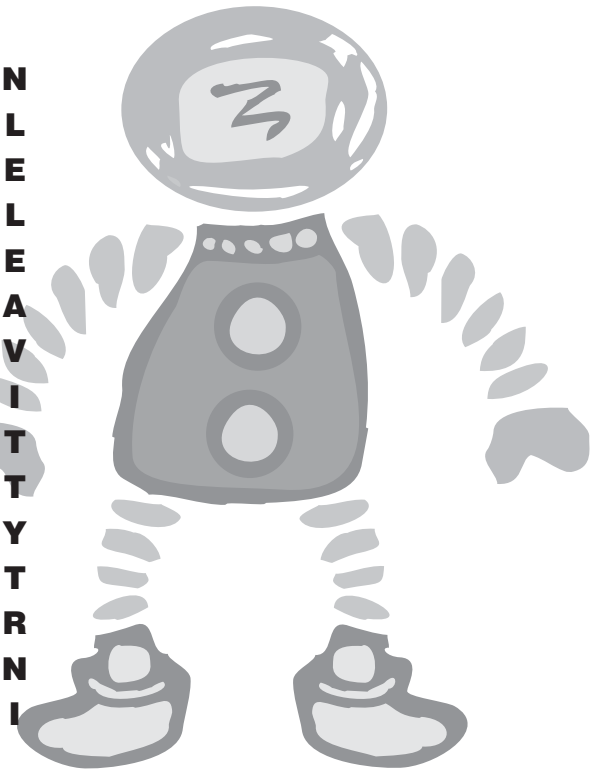
1. NATSUR
2. PIRTEJU
3. SPAVE
4. RITTON
5. RUEPOA

## Word Search

### Find the names of these ten astronomers in the letters below:

- |         |         |            |        |
|---------|---------|------------|--------|
| Tycho   | Ptolemy | Copernicus | Kepler |
| Galileo | Leavitt | Hubble     | Cannon |
| Sagan   | Messier |            |        |

**S E K L E R P T A S A S G A N**  
**E K E P L E R I E S A G A E L**  
**L P P G A L N O S A S A A G E**  
**G A C A N N O N A G I V A E L**  
**A N N O A C A G N A I T T T E**  
**N A G A P T O L L N E M Y L A**  
**C A A L T E L L B B U H B B V**  
**O L L E O L R E L P P B B U I**  
**E I A E L E A N I C U C B H T**  
**L L E M M Y T C I H C B U H T**  
**I E G I E P T T Y C H O C Y Y**  
**L O L A S T Y Y T H U C C Y T**  
**A A E L S U C I M E S S I E R**  
**G A N M I S S S E M Y E E R N**  
**A A N O Y M E L O T P R R C I**



**Answers to Astro Trivia**  
 1. Galileo 2. Annie Jump Cannon 3. William Herschel 4. Edwin Hubble 5. Henrietta Swan Leavitt 6. Caroline Herschel 7. Edmund Halley 8. Johannes Kepler  
**Answers to Word Scramble**  
 1. Saturn 2. Jupiter 3. Vespa 4. Triton 5. Europa