IMAS International Museum of Art & Science

Nobel Prize Day: Create Galaxy Trading Cards

Timed Needed: 30 min
Age Level: 7 and up

Description:

Celebrate Nobel Prize Day by creating galaxy trading cards, inspired by one of the 2020 Nobel Prize winners in Physics, Dr. Andrea Ghez.

Materials:

- Index cards or printed card templates
- Pencil and eraser
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Scissors (only if using card templates)

Pictured: Dr. Andrea Ghez
Image Credit: PBS

Introduction

Every year, Nobel Prizes are given to individuals that change the world. The prizes are given in categories of Literature, Peace, Physics, Chemistry, and Medicine. This year, one of the winners of the Nobel Prize in Physics is Dr. Andrea Ghez for her work in galaxies. She received this prize for discovering a large object in the middle of our galaxy. A galaxy is a large group of stars, dust, gas, planets, and moons all held together by gravity. Gravity is a force that holds all things together. There are many kinds of galaxies. We live in the Milky Way Galaxy, which looks like a spiral, but there also galaxies that look like ellipticals, or galaxies that look like they have no shape at all which are called irregular galaxies.

Spiral Galaxy M74

Elliptical Galaxy NGC 1132

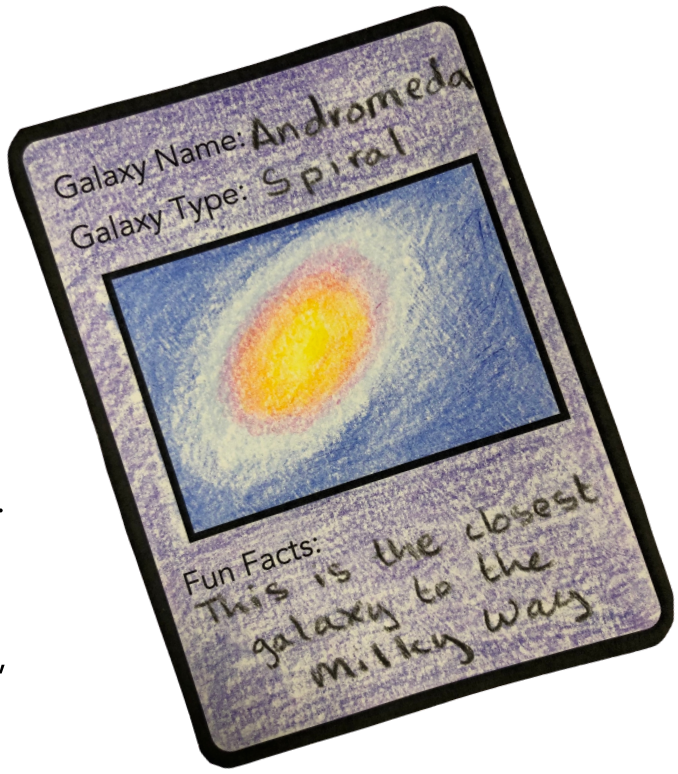
Irregular Galaxy NGC 1472A

Image(s) Credit: NASA

There are three main types of galaxies: spiral, elliptical, and irregular. Astronomers believe that there are over 100 billion galaxies in the universe, and they are still discovering new ones! An astronomer is a scientist that studies space. Though we know that there are many galaxies, only a few of them have names.

Activity

Step 1: Use the template on the next page, or plain index cards. Choose a galaxy you'd like to draw. You can find galaxies to draw at NASA's official website, https://www.nasa.gov/subject/6894/galaxies.
Step 2: Draw your galaxy in pencil on the square in the middle of the card template.
Step 3: Color in your galaxy and background.
Step 4: Write in fun facts about your galaxy, or your favorite thing about it!
Step 5: Repeat with at least one spiral galaxy, one elliptical galaxy, and one irregular galaxy.



Once you have finished as many trading cards as you'd like to make, you can trade with other friends or family members to expand your universe of trading cards!

Galaxy Trading Card Templates

Galaxy Name:

Galaxy Type:

Fun Facts:

Galaxy Name:

Galaxy Type:

Fun Facts:

Galaxy Name:

Galaxy Type:

Fun Facts:

Galaxy Name:

Galaxy Type:

Fun Facts: