

# Astrophysical History and Milestones

Astrophysics · Answer Key · 8 Questions

---

**1. Which astrophysicist first proposed the existence of the Chandrasekhar limit, establishing the maximum mass of a stable white dwarf star?**

- A) Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar**
- B) Arthur Eddington
- C) Robert Oppenheimer
- D) George Gamow

**2. In 1967, Jocelyn Bell Burnell discovered the first pulsar; what was the original whimsical designation given to the signal by her team?**

- A) LGM-1**
- B) X-Ray-B
- C) Nova-X
- D) Pulsar-Alpha

**3. The Eddington experiment of 1919, which provided early evidence for General Relativity, measured the deflection of starlight during which specific event?**

- A) A total solar eclipse**
- B) A lunar occultation
- C) A planetary transit
- D) A supernova explosion

**4. Who is credited with the 1929 observational confirmation that galaxies are receding from the Milky Way, establishing the expansion of the universe?**

- A) Edwin Hubble**
- B) Vesto Slipher
- C) Willem de Sitter
- D) George Lemaitre

**5. What was the primary objective of the COBE satellite launched by NASA in 1989?**

- A) To map the Cosmic Microwave Background radiation**
- B) To detect gravitational waves
- C) To photograph the surface of Pluto
- D) To measure solar wind velocity

**6. In 1933, Fritz Zwicky inferred the existence of what phenomenon while studying the Coma Cluster of galaxies?**

**A) Dark matter**

B) Black holes

C) Dark energy

D) Neutron stars

**7. What significant astrophysical event was recorded by Chinese astronomers in 1054 AD, later identified as the origin of the Crab Nebula?**

**A) SN 1054 supernova**

B) The Great Comet

C) A solar flare

D) A planetary conjunction

**8. Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin's 1925 doctoral thesis fundamentally changed astrophysics by proving that stars are composed primarily of which elements?**

**A) Hydrogen and Helium**

B) Oxygen and Carbon

C) Iron and Nickel

D) Silicon and Sulfur