

Astronomy Milestones and Measurements

Astronomy · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. In what year did the International Astronomical Union redefine 'planet', resulting in Pluto being reclassified as a dwarf planet?

- A) 2006**
- B) 2003
- C) 2008
- D) 2001

2. How many moons does the planet Mars officially possess?

- A) 0
- B) 1
- C) 2**
- D) 4

3. What is the approximate orbital period of Halley's Comet in years?

- A) 50
- B) 76**
- C) 102
- D) 125

4. Who was the first person to use a telescope to systematically observe the night sky in 1609?

- A) Johannes Kepler
- B) Isaac Newton
- C) Galileo Galilei**
- D) Tycho Brahe

5. What is the average distance from the Earth to the Sun, known as one Astronomical Unit (AU), in kilometers?

- A) 100 million
- B) 150 million**
- C) 200 million
- D) 250 million

6. Which space probe, launched in 1977, became the first human-made object to enter interstellar space?

- A) Voyager 1**
- B) Voyager 2
- C) Pioneer 10
- D) New Horizons

7. How many Earth days does it take for Venus to complete one full rotation on its axis?

A) 243

B) 116

C) 225

D) 365

8. The 'Great Red Spot' on Jupiter is a persistent high-pressure storm. Approximately how many Earths could fit across its width?

A) 0.5

B) 1.3

C) 3.5

D) 5.2

9. What is the name of the largest moon in the Solar System, which orbits Jupiter?

A) Titan

B) Europa

C) Ganymede

D) Callisto

10. In 1990, which space telescope was launched into low Earth orbit, revolutionizing our view of the universe?

A) Hubble

B) James Webb

C) Spitzer

D) Kepler

11. What is the temperature at the surface of the Sun, measured in degrees Celsius?

A) approx 5,500

B) approx 10,000

C) approx 2,700

D) approx 15,000

12. How many years does it take for light from the nearest star system, Alpha Centauri, to reach Earth?

A) 2.4 years

B) 4.2 years

C) 8.6 years

D) 12.1 years