Cosmic Cultural Perspectives

Space And Astronomy · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. In the context of historical cultural astronomy, which ancient civilization was the first to record a supernova, specifically the guest star of 185 AD?

A) The Babylonians
B) The Han Dynasty Chinese
C) The Ancient Greeks
D) The Maya Empire

2. Which moon of Jupiter is considered the most geologically active object in the solar system, named after a figure from Greek mythology?

A) Europa
B) Ganymede
C) Callisto
D) Io

3. The 'Great Attractor', a gravitational anomaly in intergalactic space, is located in the direction of which constellation?

A) Norma
B) Orion
C) Cassiopeia
D) Pegasus

4. What is the specific name of the boundary around a black hole beyond which nothing, not even light, can escape?

A) Singularity
B) Event Horizon
C) Accretion Disk
D) Schwarzschild Radius

5. Who was the first person to use a telescope to observe the phases of Venus, providing empirical evidence for the heliocentric model?

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

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6. Which planet in our solar system has the longest 'day', taking approximately 243 Earth days to complete one full rotation on its axis?

A) Mercury
B) Venus
C) Mars
D) Neptune

7. The Oort Cloud, a theoretical shell of icy objects surrounding the solar system, is estimated to extend to what distance from the Sun?

A) 100 AU
B) 1,000 AU
C) 10,000 to 100,000 AU
D) 1 million AU

8. Which chemical element was first discovered in the solar spectrum before it was found on Earth?

A) Helium
B) Neon
C) Argon
D) Xenon

9. What is the primary constituent of the atmosphere of Titan, Saturn's largest moon?

A) Oxygen
B) Carbon Dioxide
C) Nitrogen
D) Methane

10. The cosmic microwave background radiation (CMB) is electromagnetic radiation left over from which stage of the universe's development?

A) The Big Bang
B) The birth of the first star
C) The formation of the Milky Way
D) The emergence of dark matter

11. Which constellation contains the star Rigel, a blue supergiant that serves as a primary marker for navigation?

A) Taurus
B) Orion
C) Scorpius
D) Ursa Major

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12. What is the name of the galaxy that is currently on a collision course with the Milky Way, expected to merge in approximately 4.5 billion years?

A) Triangulum
B) Sombrero
C) Andromeda
D) Whirlpool

13. The 'Chandrasekhar Limit' defines the maximum mass of a stable white dwarf star; what is this value in solar masses?

A) 1.44
B) 2.00
C) 3.25
D) 0.75

14. Which planetary nebula, also known as NGC 7293, is located in the constellation Aquarius and is the closest such object to Earth?

A) Ring Nebula
B) Helix Nebula
C) Cat's Eye Nebula
D) Dumbbell Nebula

15. In orbital mechanics, what is the term for the point in the orbit of a planet where it is closest to the Sun?

A) Aphelion
B) Perihelion
C) Zenith
D) Nadir

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