Cosmic Performances: The Universe and Theatre

Drama, Theatre, And Space Science · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. The 1968 play 'Moonchildren' by Michael Weller uses the backdrop of the space race; which celestial body is the primary focus of the 1969 Apollo 11 mission that occurred during the play's thematic era?

A) Mars
B) The Moon
C) Venus
D) Titan

2. In the context of the theatre architecture term 'The Globe', which celestial model did the original Elizabethan cosmology follow?

A) Heliocentric
B) Geocentric
C) Galactocentric
D) Nebular

3. The play 'Inherit the Wind' focuses on evolution; if a production were performed on the planet with the longest orbital period in our solar system, how long would one 'theatrical season' (orbit) last?

A) 84 years
B) 29 years
C) 165 years
D) 12 years

4. Which planet, named after the Roman god of the underworld, was demoted from planetary status by the IAU in 2006, the same year the play 'The History Boys' won the Tony Award for Best Play?

A) Pluto
B) Eris
C) Ceres
D) Makemake

5. The 'Commedia dell'arte' troupes often traveled; if a troupe traveled to the planet with the highest surface temperature, which planet would they be visiting?

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

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6. In the play 'Arcadia' by Tom Stoppard, entropy is discussed; which cosmic phenomenon describes the theoretical ultimate fate of the universe where no more theatrical energy can be extracted?

A) Big Rip
B) Heat Death
C) Big Crunch
D) Vacuum Decay

7. Which giant planet, famously featured in the aesthetic of many avant-garde space-themed productions, possesses the moon Titan, which has a thick nitrogen-rich atmosphere?

A) Jupiter
B) Saturn
C) Uranus
D) Neptune

8. The 'Black Hole' of Calcutta is a historical event, but in astrophysics, what is the boundary surrounding a black hole from which no theatrical light can escape?

A) Singularity
B) Event Horizon
C) Accretion Disk
D) Ergosphere

9. In Greek tragedy, the 'Deus ex machina' literally means 'god from the machine'; which planet in our solar system has the most extensive ring system resembling a mechanical apparatus?

A) Saturn
B) Jupiter
C) Uranus
D) Neptune

10. Which terrestrial planet, often characterized by its 'theatrical' red iron oxide surface, was visited by the 'Perseverance' rover in 2021?

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

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11. The term 'Proscenium' defines the stage arch; which celestial body is the primary source of light for the planets in our solar system?

A) Alpha Centauri
B) Proxima Centauri
C) The Sun
D) Sirius

12. In Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', the characters look to the heavens; which planet is known as the 'Morning Star' and 'Evening Star' due to its brilliance?

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

13. The 'Great Red Spot' is a famous feature of which planet, which is composed primarily of hydrogen and helium like a massive celestial set piece?

A) Saturn
B) Jupiter
C) Uranus
D) Neptune

14. Which icy moon of Jupiter, suspected of having a subsurface ocean, is a frequent subject of science fiction theatre and literature due to its potential for life?

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

15. In the theatrical 'three-act structure', which planet completes three rotations on its axis in roughly 30 hours, similar to the duration of a standard play marathon?

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

16. The Oort Cloud is a theoretical shell surrounding the solar system; in theatre, a 'cloud' is used for rigging; what are the primary occupants of the Oort Cloud?

A) Asteroids
B) Comets
C) Gas Giants
D) Dark Matter

17. Which planet, tilted on its side at 98 degrees, creates a unique orbital 'staging' that causes extreme seasonal variations compared to other planets?

A) Uranus
B) Neptune
C) Saturn
D) Jupiter

18. The Kuiper Belt, home to various trans-Neptunian objects, contains objects that orbit beyond which planet?

A) Uranus
B) Saturn
C) Neptune
D) Jupiter

19. In terms of theatrical 'scale', which of the inner planets is the smallest in the solar system?

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

20. Which constellation, often depicted in theatrical backdrops for nautical or mythological plays, contains the star Polaris?

A) Ursa Minor
B) Orion
C) Cassiopeia
D) Cygnus

21. The atmosphere of Neptune is composed primarily of hydrogen, helium, and which hydrocarbon that gives it its blue color?

A) Methane
B) Ethane
C) Propane
D) Butane

22. Which term refers to the point in an orbit where a planet is closest to the Sun, a concept often used in 'orbital' stage choreography?

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

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23. The 'Hertzsprung-Russell diagram' categorizes stars; which class of star is the Sun, providing the literal 'spotlight' for our planetary stage?

A) Red Giant
B) White Dwarf
C) Main Sequence
D) Blue Supergiant

24. What is the name of the galaxy that contains our solar system, often referenced in epic space dramas?

A) Andromeda
B) Milky Way
C) Triangulum
D) Sombrero

25. Which planet has the longest 'theatrical' day (rotation period), taking about 243 Earth days to complete one turn?

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

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