GALAXIES

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Galaxies are defined as large groupings of stars, dust, and gas held together by gravity. They vary greatly in size and shape. Most of the objects we know of in space are contained within galaxies. They contain stars, planets, moons, comets, asteroids, nebulae, dust, neutron stars, and black holes. Our own solar system is located within a galaxy. And just like our solar system, our galaxy is in motion. The stars within the Milky Way revolve around the central core.

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Vocabulary

Comets : A celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust and, when near the sun, a ‘tail’ of gas and dust particles pointing away from the sun.

Asteroids : a small rocky body orbiting the sun.

Nebulae : A cloud of gas and dust in outer space, visible in the night sky either as an indistinct bright patch or as a dark silhouette against other luminous matter.

Black holes : A region of space having a gravitational field so intense that no matter or radiation can escape.

Oasis : A fertile spot in a desert, where water is found.

Gigantic : Of very great size or extent; huge or enormous.

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