



# THE JOPLIN GLOBE

# NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION

Got Milky Way?

**F**or thousand of years, humans have noticed a milky band of faint light that stretches across the night sky.

The invention of the telescope revealed that the band of light was actually billions of faint stars. Eventually, we realized we were looking at a galaxy of stars that was named the Milky Way.

## ARM-ADA

The Milky Way has four spiral arms: the Sagittarius Arm, the Perseus Arm, the Crux-Centaurus Arm and the Orion, or Local Arm. Our solar system is located in the Orion Arm.

The arms of the Milky Way are made of nebulae, relatively young stars and interstellar dust and gas.

Why did the rocket eat the Milky Way? It was launch time.

The Milky Way is about 100,000 light-years in diameter.

From Earth, the center of the Milky Way galaxy is located in the direction of the constellation Sagittarius.

For more information on the Milky Way, go to your local library and check out these books:

"The Visual Dictionary of the Universe" (Dorling Kindersley) or "Galaxies" by Seymour Simon (Mulberry Books).

The Milky Way is home to more than 200 billion stars.

Our solar system orbits the galactic center of the Milky Way at about 240 km/sec (537,000 mph).

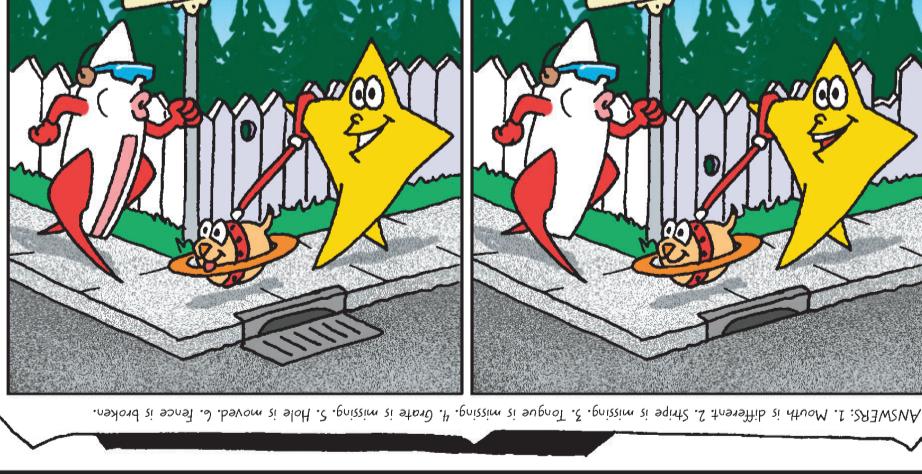
Astronomers believe that a supermassive black hole is located at the center of our galaxy.

All of the objects in the Milky Way galaxy orbit around its center. It takes our solar system about 240 million years to make one orbit around the center of the galaxy.

The oldest stars in our galaxy are found in a halo that surrounds the galactic bulge.

## MILKY Way

Can you spot all six differences between these two scenes?



ANSWERS: 1. Mouth is different. 2. Star is missing. 3. Tongue is missing. 4. Dog is missing. 5. Hole is moved. 6. Fence is broken.

## Shortcuts®

by jeff harris

This edition of Shortcuts is sponsored by Keenan Ivory Milky Wayans.

I produce stars.

# AT HOME WITH THE Milky Way

The Milky Way is a member of a small cluster of galaxies called the "Local Group." The Local Group consists of three large galaxies and more than 30 smaller ones.

## GOING iN CiRCLES

Currently, astronomers classify the Milky Way as a type Sbc spiral galaxy. This means it is a galaxy with a central bulge surrounded by a flattened disk made of spiral arms and a halo of older stars. There may also be a "bar" structure of stars near its center which may reclassify it as a SABbc galaxy.

What kind of star isn't found in the Milky Way? A starfish.

From Earth, the center of the Milky Way galaxy is located in the direction of the constellation Sagittarius.



Many of the most massive stars in our galaxy are found near the center of the central bulge.

From Earth, the Milky Way appears as a milky band of faint light that stretches across the sky. It appears brightest in the direction of the constellation Sagittarius.

## WORD SEARCH

Can you find the hidden words? Search carefully because some words are backward or diagonal.

GALAXY      BULGE      WAY  
ORION      LOCAL      ARM  
ORBIT      BAND      BOB  
SPIRAL      MILKY      DISK  
NIGHT      STARS      GAS  
EARTH      DUST      SKY

G R A E T M E D I C I N E  
E M I L K Y A Y D G U L L  
C U B I X S M S U C H O O  
A G U A M R O K S O C R T  
A L L W A A H Y T A B I G  
B A G A R T O H L I D O G  
G O E Y R S G E T T I N G  
A D N A B I N G B A S E Y  
S H E E N A P A P O K E Y  
R A N D O M U S I C B O X

The bulge at the center of our galaxy is about 10,000 light-years thick.

The nearest galaxy to the Milky Way is the relatively tiny "Canis Major Dwarf" galaxy. It is about 25,000 light-years from Earth and about 45,000 from the center of the Milky Way.

## SMOKE GETS iN YOUR EYES

Astronomers cannot see the center of the Milky Way using conventional telescopes because clouds of gas and dust block visible light. To get around this, astronomers use telescopes that measure radiation that can pass through interstellar gas such as infrared rays, radio waves and X rays.

View past issues at [www.shortcutscomic.com](http://www.shortcutscomic.com).

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