c. 270 BCE – 2022

History of Astronomy Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the circle beside the best answer.

1. Who first proposed that the Earth orbits the Sun, about 1,800 years before the idea was widely accepted?

- (A) Claudius Ptolemy, a Greek astronomer around 150 CE
- (B) Aristarchus of Samos, a Greek astronomer around 270 BCE
- (C) Nicolaus Copernicus, a Polish astronomer during the 1500s
- (D) Galileo Galilei, an Italian astronomer in the 1600s

2. What did Galileo observe with his telescope that helped prove the heliocentric model?

- (A) Moons orbiting Jupiter, which showed that not everything orbits the Earth
- (B) A shift in star positions, which showed exactly how far away the Sun really is
- (C) Galaxies beyond the Milky Way, which showed the universe is expanding
- (D) The planet Uranus, which showed the solar system was twice as large

3. What did Newton's law of universal gravitation explain?

- (A) That gravity is the bending of space-time around stars and planets
- (B) That galaxies are moving apart because the whole universe is slowly expanding
- (C) That the planets circle the Earth on spheres made of clear crystal
- (D) That gravity governs both falling objects on Earth and the orbits of planets

4. What made the discovery of Uranus in 1781 significant?

- (A) It was the first planet found to have rings, which Galileo had predicted
- (B) It was the first planet found by math alone, before anyone had seen it in the sky
- (C) It was the first planet found with a telescope, doubling the known solar system
- (D) It was the first planet found to have moons, proving Copernicus was right

5. What did Einstein's theory of general relativity predict?

- (A) Volcanic moons, new ring systems, and dozens of moons at the outer planets
- (B) Planets circling the Sun, a spinning Earth, and a fixed sphere of stars
- (C) Moons around Jupiter, phases of Venus, and stars within the Milky Way
- (D) Black holes, gravitational waves, and light bending near massive objects

6. What did Edwin Hubble discover in the 1920s?

- (A) That Andromeda is a separate galaxy and that the universe is expanding
- (B) That black holes are real and that they give off gravitational waves
- (C) That Pluto is a ninth planet and that it orbits far beyond Neptune
- (D) That the Milky Way is the only galaxy and that it is slowly shrinking in size

7. What did the Hubble Deep Field photograph reveal in 1995?

- (A) A group of four moons circling Jupiter that no one had seen before
- (B) A patch of sky that looked crowded but held only a few nearby stars
- (C) A patch of sky that looked empty but held over 3,000 galaxies
- (D) A ring of hot gas glowing around a black hole in a distant galaxy

8. What did the Event Horizon Telescope capture for the first time in 2019?

- (A) The first image of a planet circling a star other than the Sun
- (B) The first image of a black hole, which Einstein's theory had predicted
- (C) The first close-up image of Pluto, which showed plains of nitrogen ice
- (D) The first image of galaxies that formed soon after the Big Bang

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History of Astronomy Quiz: Answer Key

1. **B** Aristarchus of Samos, a Greek astronomer around 270 BCE

2. **A** Moons orbiting Jupiter, which showed that not everything orbits the Earth

3. **D** That gravity governs both falling objects on Earth and the orbits of planets

4. **C** It was the first planet found with a telescope, doubling the known solar system

5. **D** Black holes, gravitational waves, and light bending near massive objects

6. **A** That Andromeda is a separate galaxy and that the universe is expanding

7. **C** A patch of sky that looked empty but held over 3,000 galaxies

8. **B** The first image of a black hole, which Einstein's theory had predicted