c. 270 BCE – 2022

Put the Events in Order

Name _____ Date _____

These 10 events from the History of Astronomy timeline are out of order. Write a number from 1 to 10 in each box, from the earliest event (1) to the latest (10).

☐ **Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation**

Isaac Newton publishes Principia Mathematica, showing that the same force — gravity — that makes an apple fall also governs the orbits of planets and moons, following a precise mathematical law.

☐ **Voyager Launches**

NASA launches Voyager 1 and 2; over the following decade they fly past Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, returning the first detailed close-up images of the outer planets and their moons.

☐ **Uranus Discovered**

William Herschel discovers Uranus — the first planet found with a telescope, and the first planet unknown to the ancient world — instantly doubling the known size of the solar system.

☐ **Hubble Discovers Galaxies and the Expanding Universe**

Edwin Hubble proves that the Andromeda 'nebula' is actually a separate galaxy far beyond the Milky Way; by 1929 he shows that the universe is expanding in all directions.

☐ **Einstein's General Relativity**

Albert Einstein publishes his theory of general relativity, describing gravity not as a force but as the curvature of space-time — predicting phenomena like black holes, gravitational waves, and the bending of light around massive objects.

Aristarchus Proposes Heliocentrism

The Greek astronomer Aristarchus of Samos proposes that the Earth orbits the Sun — not the other way around — nearly 1,800 years before the idea would be widely accepted.

Copernicus Publishes His Heliocentric Model

Nicolaus Copernicus publishes De Revolutionibus, his mathematical proof that the Earth and planets orbit the Sun — reviving and refining Aristarchus's ancient idea with detailed calculations.

First Black Hole Image and James Webb Space Telescope

In 2019 the Event Horizon Telescope produces the first image of a black hole; in 2022 the James Webb Space Telescope returns images of galaxies from less than 500 million years after the Big Bang.

Galileo Turns the Telescope on the Sky

Galileo Galilei improves the newly invented telescope and turns it skyward — discovering that Jupiter has four moons, that Venus has phases like the Moon, and that the Milky Way is made of countless individual stars.

Hubble Space Telescope and the Deep Field

The Hubble Space Telescope is launched in 1990; in 1995 it photographs the Hubble Deep Field — pointing at an apparently empty patch of sky and revealing over 3,000 galaxies in a single image.

c. 270 BCE – 2022

Put the Events in Order: Answer Key

c. 270 BCE	1.	Aristarchus Proposes Heliocentrism
1543	2.	Copernicus Publishes His Heliocentric Model
1609–10	3.	Galileo Turns the Telescope on the Sky
1687	4.	Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation
1781	5.	Uranus Discovered
1915–16	6.	Einstein's General Relativity
1924–29	7.	Hubble Discovers Galaxies and the Expanding Universe
1977	8.	Voyager Launches
1990–95	9.	Hubble Space Telescope and the Deep Field
2019–22	10.	First Black Hole Image and James Webb Space Telescope