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Activities

Cosmic Collision

Name: _____ Date: _____

No need to start worrying now, but the Milky Way is in for a violent shock. Our galaxy is hurtling towards a head-on collision with Andromeda a few billion years from now. In this Planet Diary activity, you'll find out what will happen when they collide. It won't be pretty.

Directions

- What will the Milky Way/Andromeda collision be like? Visit to the Hubble Space Telescope's Cosmic Collision. Select *Close Captions On* and watch the introduction. Use the video controls to pause or rewind. Answer Workspace question 1.
- Click *Continue Show* to learn about *Galaxy Evolution*. Answer question 2.
- Continue to *Collision Dynamics*. Use the information to answer questions 3 through 5.
- Learn the *Fate of the Milky Way*. Answer the last question.

Workspace

1. Describe what will happen when the Milky Way and Andromeda collide.

2. What's the "startling conclusion" about how galaxies form?

3. What force drives galaxies into violent cosmic pile-ups?

4. What will happen to our solar system when Andromeda and the Milky Way collide?

5. What happens when clouds of gas and dust of colliding galaxies meet?

6. How will the two galaxies look "in the end"?

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