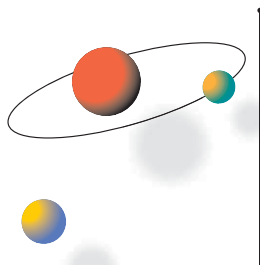


Investigating Stars—Introduction to the Challenge



Challenge

The Ten Most Wanted

You will complete this Challenge at the end of the unit. Read the following introduction now and keep it in mind as you complete the unit's three Explorations.

Preview

Introduction to the Challenge

In this Challenge, you will make a “TEN MOST WANTED” poster that describes one of a number of unusual stars suspected of being present in our part of the Milky Way. The poster has to be very detailed so that there can be no mistaken identity. You will meet the Challenge and complete your task by providing as specific a description as possible of one of these objects. To do so, you may employ any information and resources you uncover after you have completed all the activities in this unit.

The list of ten-most-wanted stars appears below. You'll make one poster per person or team featuring one of the ten “most wanted” stars.

Ten “Most Wanted” Stars

1. The Caliente Quadruplets: Known to be some of the hottest stars in the Milky Way. They emit dangerous radiation.
2. S. N. Wannabee: Known to be the most likely supernova candidate close to Earth. A cosmic train wreck waiting to happen.
3. Wayfar Extrasolar: Known to be the nearest star with an extrasolar planetary system that contains an Earth-like planet. A source of unfriendly extraterrestrials?
4. I. M. Littlewhite: Known to be the closest white dwarf star to Earth. He may be small, but he gives off UV and x-rays.
5. Biggen Scarlet: Known to be the largest star in the vicinity of Earth. If placed in our solar system, he'd engulf Earth.
6. Guly and Oro Twinstar: Known to be the nearest binary star system to Earth. Could be disruptive gravitationally to her own planets, if any are present.
7. Bea Blinker: Known to be the brightest variable star in the night sky. Can change appearance (color, radius, temperature) in a matter of days.
8. Yello Solartwin: Known to be the nearest star that's like our sun.
9. Ucant Seeme: Nearest black hole to Earth. Beware Ucant's event horizon!
10. Soeyem Notsohot: Known to be the nearest brown dwarf candidate to our solar system. A cool customer.

You will use information from the activities in each Exploration to gather what you need to create your poster at the end of the unit. *Starry Night* and the *Sloan Digital Sky Survey* can offer additional details concerning your selected object.