



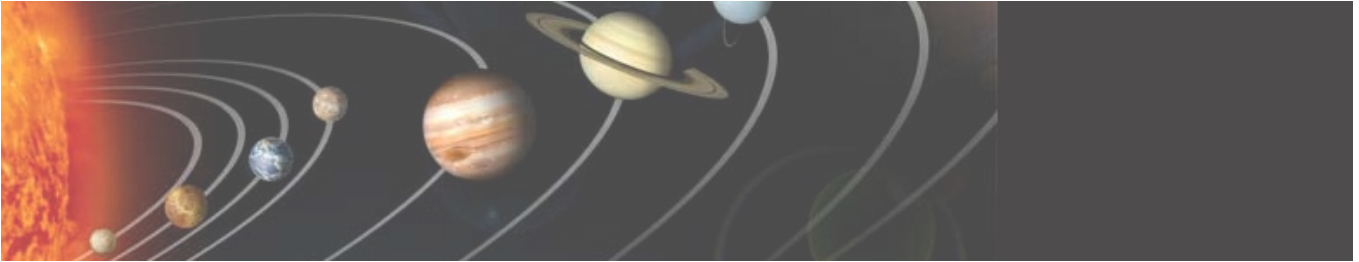
Astronomy

Fun Facts About the Fabric of Cosmos

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Introduction



'Astronomy compels the soul to look upwards and leads us from this world to another' - Plato. The word Astronomy originates from the Greek word astronomia ie astron plus nomos, literally meaning 'law of the stars'. Astronomy is the science, which deals with the origin, evolution, composition, distance, and motion of all bodies and scattered matter in the universe. It includes astrophysics, which discusses the physical properties and structure of all cosmic matter. The study of Astronomy not only offers us futuristic insights but also allows us to walk down the corridors of time, as it unfolds the mysteries of the universe.

Astronomy is a combination of a lot of things. Ever wonder if there is life on other planets? That's astronomy. Have you ever seen a lunar eclipse? That's astronomy too. Anything that's in the deep space and can be studied is a part of astronomy. When you look up at the night sky and are fascinated by all those stars that you see that's where astronomy starts.

In astronomy, data is mainly collected from the detection and analysis of light and other forms of electromagnetic radiation. Some tools used to study astronomy are: binoculars, telescope, computers and cameras.

Since ancient times, astronomy has contributed considerably to mankind. Our calendar and system of time originated from astronomy. Mathematics was derived from astronomical calculations. Navigational tools developed from astronomy allowed early explorers to ship across the seas and now spacecraft across the solar system. The very first digital computers were built in order to deal with the dilemma arising from astronomy. Satellites providing services that enable cell-phones to cable are applications of the laws of motion and gravity. Even the field of healthcare has been impacted with the introduction of imaging systems invented by astronomers that permit the non-invasive assessment of internal organs.