Galaxies
What is a galaxy?

• A galaxy is a large grouping of stars, gas, and dust in space that is held together by gravity.

• The largest galaxies contain more than a trillion stars. Smaller galaxies may have only a few million.

• Scientists estimate the number of stars from the size and brightness of the galaxy.
Main Types of Galaxies

Spiral

Elliptical

Irregular
Properties of Spiral Galaxies

- Shaped like flattened disks with one or more spiral arms.
- Our galaxy, Milky Way, is a spiral galaxy.
- Our solar system is located in one of the spiral arms.
Properties of Elliptical Galaxies

• About 1/3 of all galaxies.
• Simply massive blobs of stars.

• Round or elliptical in shape.
• Contain very little gas or dust.
• Because of little gas, no new stars are forming.
• The largest and smallest galaxies are elliptical galaxies.
Properties of Irregular Galaxies

- Do not fit into any other category.
- Chaotic mix of stars, gas and dust
- Usually found near large spiral galaxies who may be distorting their shape.
Contents of Galaxies

Galaxies are made of stars, planetary systems, gas clouds, and star clusters. A nebula is a giant cloud of gas and dust where stars may be forming.

Nebula are found in spiral galaxies but not elliptical galaxies.
Name the Galaxy?
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