

Name _____ Date _____

Edwin Hubble

American astronomer Edwin Hubble was born in November 1889 in Montana. After a few years' study at the University of Chicago, he was awarded a scholarship to Oxford University in Great Britain for his excellent athletic and academics skills. As he had promised his father, Edwin concentrated on studying law and foreign languages rather than science. When he returned to the United States, he became a teacher of Spanish. However, his love was astronomy. After World War I, he accepted an offer to work in the prestigious Mount Wilson Observatory. Ambitious and energetic, he pursued his career and became the most significant astronomer in the history of cosmology.

His research was focused on the universe as a whole. He studied our galaxy, the Milky Way, which consists of ten billion stars, space dust, and gas. In the 1920s, he proved that there are millions of other galaxies, and that the distance between them changes according to certain rules. This break-through, combined with his further discoveries, overthrew the previous theory of a static, or unchanging, universe, and made Edwin Hubble the founder of modern cosmology. His investigations and publications brought him immense recognition, even among ordinary people. Despite this recognition, the Nobel Prize was still only a dream for Edwin Hubble at the time of his death in 1953. Besides our galaxy with its stars and planets, only three other galaxies can be seen without the use of a telescope. More can be seen from observatories, but it is still not enough for many researchers. For this reason, on April 24, 1990, almost a hundred years after Hubble had been born, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched a huge telescope into space, which they named after him. The Hubble Space Telescope is constructed from large mirrors and lenses that must be perfectly set, a camera, and several satellites transmitting images of distant objects. It helps scientists to study these objects and to understand processes in the universe.

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ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT EDWIN HUBBLE

- 1) Edwin Hubble was born in
 - a. California
 - b. Great Britain
 - c. Montana
 - d. France

- 2) He was awarded a scholarship to
 - a. the University of Chicago
 - b. Oxford University
 - c. both Oxford University and the University of Chicago
 - d. He never received a scholarship

- 3) His father wanted him to
 - a. study athletics
 - b. be a famous scientist
 - c. go to the First World War
 - d. study law

- 4) Edwin Hubble wanted to
 - a. work as a Spanish teacher
 - b. build new observatories
 - c. work as an astronomer
 - d. write books about famous scientists

- 5) He discovered that
 - a. space consists of dust
 - b. the distance between planets is changing
 - c. there are millions of planets in our galaxy
 - d. there are many other galaxies in the universe

- 6) Hubble Space Telescope was designed to
 - a. bring images of distant space objects
 - b. catch space dust
 - c. watch Earth from orbit
 - d. travel to distant galaxies

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ANSWERS

EDWIN HUBBLE

1. c
2. b
3. d
4. c
5. d
6. a