

Messier Objects

Activity



Objectives:

Learn who Messier was and to study a selected Messier object.

Compose a paper that includes the following points:

1. Messier – Have a short paragraph introducing Messier and briefly describe his contributions to astronomy.
2. What is the Messier number of your object? What is the type of object? What name may that object also be known as?
3. **Sketch** in detail the object (either from observation or from an image). A sketched example is the Messier object in the upper right corner of this document. If you sketch the object from an image, reference the image.
4. With words and in detail, describe the object (color, size (use light years), shape, etc).
5. Briefly discuss how the object formed.
6. Where in the sky would you look for your object? Include the declination and **R. A.** Include the constellation and direction from nearby star(s) in which your object would be found. Also include the best time of year and night to view the object from Texas.
7. What is the magnitude of the object?
8. What is required to see the object?
 - Naked eye
 - Binoculars
 - Telescope
9. What is the distance from Earth (light years)? How many kilometers and miles are in a light year?
10. If you were flying on a plane approximately 1200 km per hour, how long would it take you to get there?

Use MLA format to cite all references.