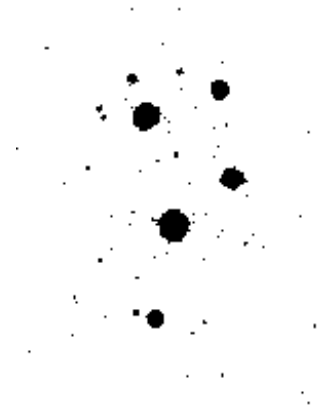




Messier Objects Activity



The **objectives** of this activity are to learn about Messier and study a selected Messier object. Astronomical objects have a very unique vector to describe the objects location and distance; therefore another objective is to learn about that astronomic vector.

Your submitted paper must be typed and contains a brief introductory paragraph. The body will contain multiple paragraphs to discuss the points as outlined below.

Use MLA format to cite all references. Do not plagiarize, “cut-and-paste,” nor copy anyone else’s work.

Your paper will include 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? List any alternative names the object might have.
3. **Sketch** neatly and in detail the object (either from observation or from an image). Two sketched examples of Messier objects are at the top of this document. If you sketch the object from an image, **reference** the image.
4. Describe the object (color, size (use light years), shape, etc). Include the object’s magnitude (define what “magnitude” is as related to the objects’ visibility).
5. What are the components of the vector that describes the location of the object and what describes the magnitude of the distance from Earth to the object? Include these values in your report
6. What constellation is the object associated with?
7. What is required to see the object (naked eye, binoculars, telescope)? When is the best time of year to view the object from Texas?
8. If you were flying on a plane approximately 1200 km per hour, how long would it take you to get there (years)?