



Revision Guides

Expanding Universe



Introduction	3
Expanding Universe	4
Interesting Facts	5

Introduction

The universe is everything that exists, including objects and energy, throughout time and space.

Earth, the Sun, and the rest of the solar system are only a very small part of the universe.

The size of the universe is difficult to imagine. It is so large that light from very distant objects in the universe must travel billions of years before reaching Earth.

No one knows for sure just how big the universe is. It could be infinitely large. Scientists, however, measure the size of the universe by what they can see. most of the universe is what we think of as empty space.

The universe began between 13 and 14 billion years ago with the start of a massive explosion called the Big Bang.

All the atoms together only make up around four percent of the universe. Most of the universe consists of dark matter and dark energy.

Expanding Universe

One of the interesting things about the universe is that it is currently expanding.

It's growing larger and larger all the time. Not only is it growing larger, but the edge of the universe is expanding at a faster and faster rate.

Scientists think that the edge of the universe is expanding faster than the speed of light.

Most scientists believe that the universe began suddenly in an event called the big bang. They estimate that this happened between 10 and 15 billion years ago.

The universe at that time was tightly packed and hot. Since then the universe has been expanding and cooling. Some scientists believe that the universe may stop expanding and begin to contract. But most scientists believe that the universe will keep expanding forever.



Interesting Facts

- Distant galaxies are constantly moving further and further away from us as the universe expands.
- Every galaxy in the universe is moving away from every other galaxy. There is no center to the universe.
- Albert Einstein said that the shape of the universe was open, closed, or flat.
- Many scientists today think that the universe is flat.
- The universe appears to be cooling and may eventually freeze.
- Large empty spaces in the universe are called voids.
- The most abundant element in the universe is hydrogen. The second most abundant element is helium.



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