



THE EARTH IN THE UNIVERSE

THE UNIVERSE – GALAXIES –STARS

There are billions and billions of galaxies in the universe and they consist of billions and billions of stars. Astronomers distinguish three types of galaxies – spiral, elliptical and irregular.

THE MILKY WAY

Our galaxy is spiral and it is shaped like a thin disc with long arms that spiral around the centre. It is called the Milky Way Galaxy. Its name comes from the white colour, it looks like a glowing band of lights that stretches across the sky. It would take 100,000 light years to travel from one end to the other. Our Solar System (The Sun and the planets) is not in the centre of the Milky Way Galaxy. It is situated in one of the arms, in two-thirds of the distance between the galaxy's core and the edge.

OTHER GALAXIES

Our galaxy belongs to a bigger group of about forty galaxies which is called The Local Group. The nearest neighbours are for example the Andromeda galaxy and the Dwarf Galaxy Sagittarius.