

# Unit 8: Cosmology

Content Area: **Science**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Marking Period 2**  
Length: **9 days**  
Status: **Published**

## Summary

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Cosmology is the study of the universe on the grandest scale. Students will learn about the Big Bang, the CMB, and the expansion of the universe.

**Introduction:** Our understanding of how the universe came to be and what its future looks like has changed dramatically in recent years. Cosmologists once thought the universe's rate of expansion was slowing down, but now we have evidence that it is speeding up. What will the universe look like in the future? What information do we have from the Cosmic Microwave Background? How do the laws of physics explain why there is more matter in the universe than antimatter? Students will investigate questions on the edge of modern cosmology.

**Revision Date:** July 2019

LA.RST.9-10	Reading Science and Technical Subjects
LA.WHST.9-10	Writing History, Science and Technical Subjects
MA.K-12.1	Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
MA.K-12.2	Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
MA.K-12.3	Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
MA.K-12.4	Model with mathematics.
MA.K-12.5	Use appropriate tools strategically.
MA.K-12.6	Attend to precision.
MA.K-12.7	Look for and make use of structure.
MA.K-12.8	Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.
CRP.K-12.CRP1	Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP5	Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.
CRP.K-12.CRP6	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CRP.K-12.CRP7	Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
CRP.K-12.CRP8	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
CRP.K-12.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.
SCI.HS-ESS1-3	Communicate scientific ideas about the way stars, over their life cycle, produce elements.
SCI.HS-ESS1-2	Construct an explanation of the Big Bang theory based on astronomical evidence of light spectra, motion of distant galaxies, and composition of matter in the universe.
SCI.HS-ETS1-3	Evaluate a solution to a complex real-world problem based on prioritized criteria and

trade-offs that account for a range of constraints, including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics, as well as possible social, cultural, and environmental impacts.

SCI.HS-ETS1-1	Analyze a major global challenge to specify qualitative and quantitative criteria and constraints for solutions that account for societal needs and wants.
SCI.HS-ETS1-4	Use a computer simulation to model the impact of proposed solutions to a complex real-world problem with numerous criteria and constraints on interactions within and between systems relevant to the problem.
SCI.HS-ETS1-2	Design a solution to a complex real-world problem by breaking it down into smaller, more manageable problems that can be solved through engineering.
SCI.HS-PS2-1	Analyze data to support the claim that Newton's second law of motion describes the mathematical relationship among the net force on a macroscopic object, its mass, and its acceleration.
SCI.HS-PS4-1	Use mathematical representations to support a claim regarding relationships among the frequency, wavelength, and speed of waves traveling in various media.
SCI.HS-PS1-8	Develop models to illustrate the changes in the composition of the nucleus of the atom and the energy released during the processes of fission, fusion, and radioactive decay.
SCI.HS-PS3-1	Create a computational model to calculate the change in the energy of one component in a system when the change in energy of the other component(s) and energy flows in and out of the system are known.
SCI.HS-PS2-2	Use mathematical representations to support the claim that the total momentum of a system of objects is conserved when there is no net force on the system.
SCI.HS-PS2-4	Use mathematical representations of Newton's Law of Gravitation and Coulomb's Law to describe and predict the gravitational and electrostatic forces between objects.
SCI.HS-PS3-2	Develop and use models to illustrate that energy at the macroscopic scale can be accounted for as a combination of energy associated with the motions of particles (objects) and energy associated with the relative position of particles (objects).
WRK.9.1.2.CAP.1	Make a list of different types of jobs and describe the skills associated with each job.
9-12.HS-ESS1-2	Construct an explanation of the Big Bang theory based on astronomical evidence of light spectra, motion of distant galaxies, and composition of matter in the universe.
9-12.HS-ESS1-3	Communicate scientific ideas about the way stars, over their life cycle, produce elements.
9-12.HS-ETS1-1	Analyze a major global challenge to specify qualitative and quantitative criteria and constraints for solutions that account for societal needs and wants.
9-12.HS-ETS1-3	Evaluate a solution to a complex real-world problem based on prioritized criteria and trade-offs that account for a range of constraints, including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics, as well as possible social, cultural, and environmental impacts.
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	acceleration.
9-12.HS-PS3-1	Create a computational model to calculate the change in the energy of one component in a system when the change in energy of the other component(s) and energy flows in and out of the system are known.
9-12.HS-PS3-2	Develop and use models to illustrate that energy at the macroscopic scale can be accounted for as a combination of energy associated with the motion of particles (objects) and energy associated with the relative position of particles (objects).
9-12.HS-PS4-1	Use mathematical representations to support a claim regarding relationships among the frequency, wavelength, and speed of waves traveling in various media.
TECH.9.4.2.CI.1	Demonstrate openness to new ideas and perspectives (e.g., 1.1.2.CR1a, 2.1.2.EH.1, 6.1.2.CivicsCM.2).
TECH.9.4.2.CI.2	Demonstrate originality and inventiveness in work (e.g., 1.3A.2CR1a).
TECH.9.4.2.GCA.1	Articulate the role of culture in everyday life by describing one's own culture and comparing it to the cultures of other individuals (e.g., 1.5.2.C2a, 7.1.NL.IPERS.5, 7.1.NL.IPERS.6).
TECH.9.4.2.IML.2	Represent data in a visual format to tell a story about the data (e.g., 2.MD.D.10).
TECH.9.4.2.IML.3	Use a variety of sources including multimedia sources to find information about topics such as climate change, with guidance and support from adults (e.g., 6.3.2.GeoGI.2, 6.1.2.HistorySE.3, W.2.6, 1-LSI-2).
TECH.9.4.2.IML.4	Compare and contrast the way information is shared in a variety of contexts (e.g., social, academic, athletic) (e.g., 2.2.2.MSC.5, RL.2.9).

## **Essential Questions/Enduring Understandings**

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How does cosmology help scientists understand the formation, growth, and possible future of the universe?

## **Objectives**

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Students will know Olber's Paradox and its resolution.

Students will be skilled at applying the basic assumptions of homogeneity, isotropy and universality to our universe.

Students will know the cosmological principle.

Students will know Edwin Hubble's idea on the expansion of the universe.

Students will know what evidence there is to support the Big Bang Theory.

Students will know how the big bang theory explains the age, structure and evolution of the universe.

Students will know why the night sky is dark.

Students will be skilled at predicting the possibility of alien life existing in the universe.

## **Learning Plan**

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Profile: Edwin Hubble

ISLE Cycle - Age of the Universe

ISLE Cycle - Olber's Paradox and the Cosmic Microwave Background

Activity: Formation of the Universe and Galaxies

Gravitational Waves reading and discussion

## **Assessment**

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Formative Assessment during ISLE Cycle and activities

Chapter Quiz

Sunnative Assessment:

Chapter Test

Benchmark Assessment:

Final Exam

## **Materials**

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quantitative/qualitative lab equipment for activities, experiments

related astronomy maps, charts

supplementary interactive multimedia, internet websites, videos

Foundations of Astronomy Textbook

## **Integrated Accommodation and Modifications**

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[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1243s4Clz7zHx\\_VnPe-hYDP06QSoHb0jKJY2NuNYySSc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1243s4Clz7zHx_VnPe-hYDP06QSoHb0jKJY2NuNYySSc/edit?usp=sharing)