

Student name: _____

Internet Research Lab

Just because a site is on the web does not mean that it is an authoritative source of information. Every resource you use in the course of your research must be evaluated carefully. Astronomy-related web sites are not necessarily subject to the editing process or peer-review that books, magazines, and journal articles face, so you should always attempt to determine the validity of the sources you find. Use the following guidelines to assess a website:

- Who are the authors and what are their qualifications? What is the intended audience?
- Is the text clearly written? Is the page well-formatted? Is it easy/difficult to read?
- Are figures/images used in the site? What purpose do they serve? Are they credited?
- Are links provided? In text or as a list? What purpose do they serve? Are they enlightening?

Use these criteria to answer the following questions, being careful to judge the website's validity instead of "just taking their word for it."

1. What are the names of the three spacecraft currently operating on the surface of Mars?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

2. When will the next total lunar eclipse take place?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

3. Will it be visible from Long Island?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

4. What is the name of the telescope that will replace the Hubble Space Telescope?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

5. How many extra-solar planets (a.k.a. exoplanets) are known at present?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

6. What organization is responsible for naming comets?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

7. What is the farthest object we can see with the naked eye?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

8. What is the name of the brightest star in the night sky?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

9. When will the next meteor shower occur?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

10. When was the Chandra X-ray Observatory launched into earth orbit?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

11. What was the name of the first spacecraft to visit Saturn?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

12. How far away is the most distant known galaxy?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

13. Name the last astronaut to walk on the Moon.

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

14. What was the name of the first spacecraft to orbit Earth?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

15. When was it launched?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

16. What was the name of the first spacecraft to visit Venus?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

17. What country launched it?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

18. Name the largest volcano in the solar system.

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

19. What planet is it on?

Answer: _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____

20. What are the titles of the eight astronomy books that I have written?

Answer:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____

URL: _____

Web site author: _____