

How Big Is a Billion?



"The creation of God embraceth worlds besides this world, and creatures apart from these creatures." —Bahá'u'lláh

The Milky Way galaxy is a massive collection of celestial bodies, including over 100 billion stars, rotating in a beautiful spiral pattern. It's so huge that it would take a space shuttle over four billion years to fly from one side to the other.

planets in our galaxy, but they think there could be up to—you guessed it—billions!

How can we understand such mind-boggling numbers? Scientists use math to measure, but sometimes, numbers can be so vast, you have to use your imagination and make comparisons. For example, if the earth were one inch across, the sun would only be 980 feet away, but the galaxy would still be a billion miles wide! Isn't that astounding?

Over 12 billion years old, the Milky Way is one of the oldest galaxies in the universe. It's also one of the largest, out of an estimated 100 billion galaxies. Earth is located near the edge of the Milky Way. Scientists have found hundreds of other

Amazing Amounts

Try this quiz and learn more about the billions of things in God's creation.

1. One billion seconds is about:

- a. 3 years
- b. 13 years
- c. 32 years



2. A billion pennies stacked on top of each other would be almost:

- a. 1 mile high (1.6 km)
- b. 10 miles high (16 km)
- c. 1000 miles high (1609 km)

3. A billion months ago was the time of:

- a. Medieval knights
- b. Dinosaurs
- c. Earth's formation



4. If you traveled a billion inches (2.5 billion cm), you would be:

- a. More than halfway around the world
- b. Very tired
- c. 1000 miles (1609 km) away

5. How many 16 GB digital music players would you need to hold a billion songs?

- a. 100
- b. 250,000
- c. 1 million



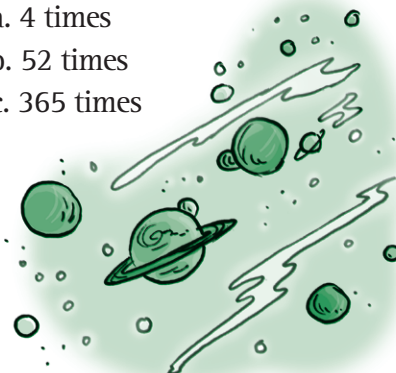
6. On Earth, there are a billion living insects for every:

- a. 5 humans
- b. 1000 humans
- c. Million humans



7. About how many times does our solar system orbit the galaxy in a billion years?

- a. 4 times
- b. 52 times
- c. 365 times

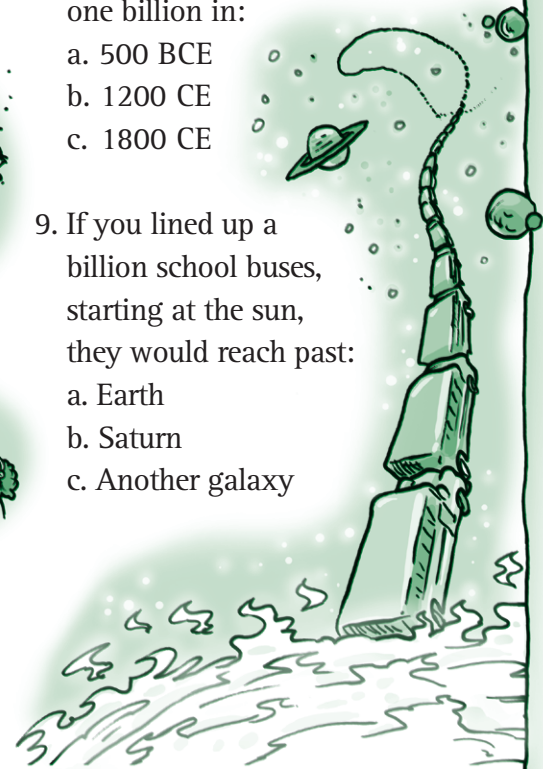


8. World human population passed one billion in:

- a. 500 BCE
- b. 1200 CE
- c. 1800 CE

9. If you lined up a billion school buses, starting at the sun, they would reach past:

- a. Earth
- b. Saturn
- c. Another galaxy



10. What two countries have a population of over a billion people each?

- a. China and India
- b. India and the United States
- c. Canada and Australia

A billion is a thousand million • 1 inch = 2.5 cm • 980 ft = 299 m • 1 billion miles = 1.6 billion km

Answers: 1) c, 2) c, 3) b, 4) a, 5) b, 6) a, 7) a, 8) c, 9) b, 10) a