

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# MEET THE MILKY WAY

**Did you know** we live in one of the arms of a giant **spiral galaxy** called the **Milky Way Galaxy**? The sun, moon, planets, and many of the stars we see in the night sky also lie in this part of the galaxy, constantly swirling like a whirlpool as we drift across space.

On a dark, cloudless night you might be able to look up and see a “milky,” glowing band of light that stretches across the sky. This appearance is what gave the **Milky Way** its name. Almost *everything* we see in the night sky belongs to the **Milky Way Galaxy**.

Scientists believe nearly *200 billion stars* lie in our galaxy, and just as many planets. The **Milky Way Galaxy** is so big, it would take you *100,000 light-years* just to get from one end to the other!

The **Milky Way Galaxy** isn't the only galaxy in the universe. In fact, there are about *40 more galaxies nearby* — and even more in our universe. The closest galaxies include the **Andromeda Galaxy** and the tiny **Dwarf Galaxy Sagittarius**. Scientists believe we actually came from the **Dwarf Galaxy Sagittarius**, joining the **Milky Way** over time.

