

Lesson 6: The Great Debate - Solved!

We're traveling back in time one last time, to find the solution to "The Great Debate." Marshall meets Henrietta Leavitt, an astronomer who discovered the key to determining the size of the universe. With Henrietta's help, we'll find out who won The Great Debate, and what those mysterious spiral nebulae really are.

RESOURCES INCLUDED WITH THIS LESSON:

- Listening Questions
- Discussion Questions

Listening Questions - Lesson 6

- 1) How does a light appear to change as it gets further away?
- 2) Why was distance so important to the Great Debate?
- 3) What was it that Henrietta Leavitt noticed? Why were the flickering stars important?
- 4) What does “correlated with their size mean”?
- 5) Why is Henrietta Leavitt’s correlation important?
- 6) What was the final resolution to Curtis’ and Shapley’s debate?

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7) In the end, what were spiral nebulae? How did they change how astronomers saw the universe?

8) What was Curtis right about? What was Shapley right about?

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Discussion Questions

- 1) How big did you think the universe was before you did this lesson? Did your idea of the size of the galaxy change at all?

- 2) Henrietta Leavitt's discovery was a major breakthrough in determining distances to stars. Do you know of any other breakthroughs? What are they?