

IS THE SUN THE BIGGEST STAR IN SPACE?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Objective: I will learn how scientists participate in argumentation and write an initial claim about the size of the Sun.

Introduction to Scientific Argumentation:

In science class, Jayla and Michael learned about stars. "I didn't know that the Sun is a star," Michael said. "It must be the biggest star in space, because it is so bright!"

"Hmm..." Jayla thought out loud. "Space is really huge. I think there must be bigger stars out there somewhere."

They may not realize it, but Michael and Jayla are having a scientific argument. This doesn't mean that they are yelling or angry with each other. It means that they both have different ideas about how something works. Their different ideas are called claims.

Let's take a closer look at the argument and their claims. First, every argument starts with a question. Michael and Jayla's question: **Is the Sun the biggest star in space?**

Michael's Claim:

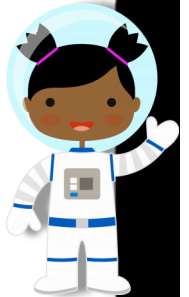
The Sun is the biggest star in space.

Jayla's Claim:

There are bigger stars in space than the Sun.

Which claim do you think is true? Why do you think so? _____

What would you need to do to prove that one of these claims is true? _____



GATHERING EVIDENCE

DIRECTIONS: Read the evidence cards, and decide whether each card supports Michael's claim or Jayla's claim. Put them into the correct column. After sorting evidence, we will write our own scientific argument to support one of these two claims.

Question: Is the Sun the biggest star in space?

Claim #1 (Michael)	Claim #2 (Jayla)
The Sun is the biggest star in space.	There are bigger stars in space than the Sun.
Evidence for Claim #1:	Evidence for Claim #2:

Some pieces of evidence are stronger than others. Which evidence card provided the strongest evidence for a claim? Explain why.

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CREATING A SCIENTIFIC ARGUMENT

Question: Is the Sun the biggest star in space?

Claim

Circle the claim that you support in the box to the right.

Claim #1: The Sun is the biggest star in space.

Claim #2: There are bigger stars in space than the Sun.

Evidence

Restate the strongest piece of evidence to support your claim.

Reasoning

How does your evidence help to answer the question?

I DID learn how scientists participate in argumentation and write an initial claim about the size of the Sun.

