HOLLISTON Public Schools

Grade 10-12 - Astronomy - Unit 4: The Solar System

Massachusetts Learning Standards Taught in this Unit

- HS-ESS1-1. Use informational text to explain that the life span of the Sun over approximately 10 billion years is a function of nuclear fusion in its core. Communicate that stars, through nuclear fusion over their life cycle, produce elements from helium to iron and release energy that eventually reaches Earth in the form of radiation.
- HS-ESS1-2. Describe the astronomical evidence for the Big Bang theory, including the red shift of light from the motion of distant galaxies as an indication that the universe is currently expanding, the cosmic microwave background as the remnant radiation from the Big Bang, and the observed composition of ordinary matter of the universe, primarily found in stars and interstellar gasses, which matches that predicted by the Big Bang theory (3/4 hydrogen and 1/4 helium).
- HS-ESS1-4. Use Kepler's laws to predict the motion of orbiting objects in the solar system. Describe how orbits may change due to the gravitational effects from, or collisions with, other objects in the solar system.