

# The Secret Galaxy

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Astronomy, Stars, Planets, Space

**Book Brief:** What do you see when you look into the night sky? *The Secret Galaxy* explains some of the secrets of space and the universe, while also revealing that there are many mysteries yet to be solved.

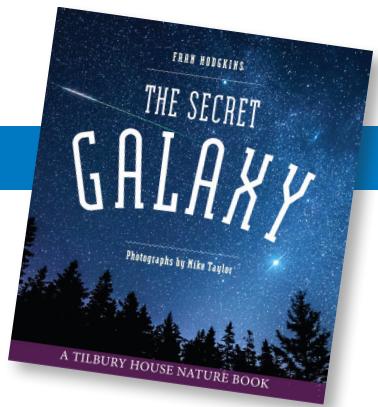
**Author:** Fran Hodgkins

**Photographer:**

Mike Taylor

**Content Connections:**

Science, Math



## TIME TO READ!



### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** Based on the cover picture, what do you think this book is about? Do you think it's fiction or nonfiction? Explain your answer.

**The Pictures:** Notice that there is a photographer rather than an illustrator. How do you think the pictures in this book were obtained by Mike Taylor? Why might a book use photographs instead of

illustrations? Can you think of any other books with photographs instead of illustrated pictures?

**Prior Knowledge:** What do you think the term "galaxy" means? Have you ever heard of the Milky Way?

**Vocabulary:** galaxy, Milky Way, universe, aurora borealis, nebulas

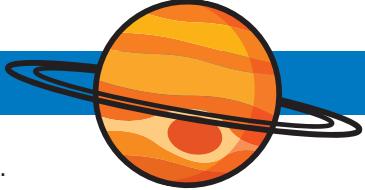
**Purpose for Reading:** As we read, think about how the information in the text changes how you think about the universe and your place in it. Be prepared to give a few specific examples after we're finished.

## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What inference can you make about the galaxy and stars from the opening paragraph?
- ◆ Why might it have been easier to see the Milky Way for the ancient Greeks?
- ◆ Write the number 100,000,000,000 on the board and briefly discuss place value.

- ◆ Describe what mass is.
- ◆ Why would different groups of people have so many different ideas about what the Milky Way looked like to them?
- ◆ Have scientists discovered everything about the Milky Way? What do you think there is left to learn?
- ◆ What do you think will happen next?



## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** What new facts did you learn from this book that changed how you think about the stars, our galaxy, or the universe? Give a specific example from the text. Did this book make you feel small? Or did it make you feel like you're a part of something bigger? Explain your answer.

**Extending Our Thinking:** Do you think there will ever be a time when humans can live on a planet other than Earth? Why or why not? Right now, NASA is exploring Mars using special robots and is planning to send human beings to Mars by the 2030s. Why do you think we're so interested in landing on Mars and other planets? Would you want to go to Mars? Why or why not? Do you think exploring outer space is important, or is it just a waste of time? Discuss your answer with a partner, then share with the class.

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is  
Fundamental