

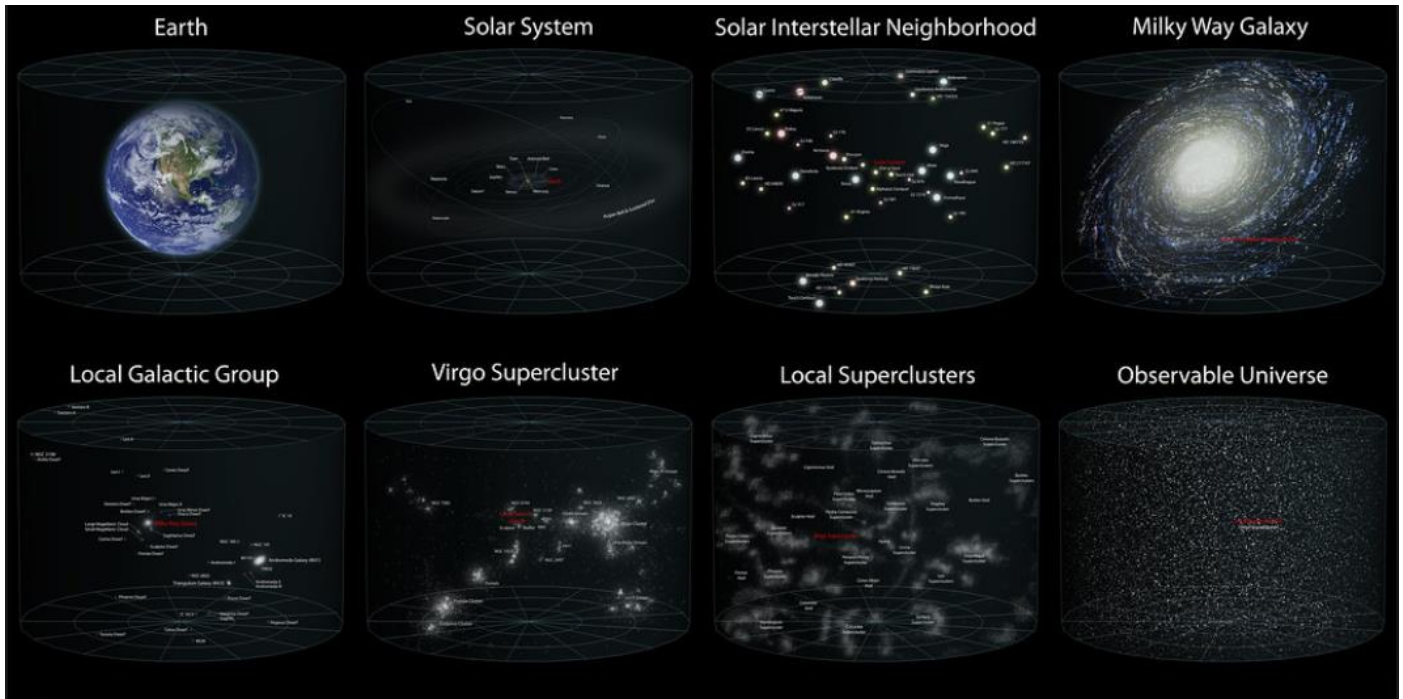
Earth

2. Universe

CONCEPT 4

EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE

NOTES



Our Sun is a star that appears to be larger than other stars in the sky because it is much closer to Earth. Billions of stars can be found clustered in galaxies held together by the force of gravity.

Our Sun is in a spiral galaxy called the Milky Way. The Earth is located on one of the arms of the spirals in the Milky way.

Light years - Distances in space can be extremely difficult to comprehend and write down in number form. Therefore, scientists use light years as an astronomical distance. A light year is the distance travelled by light in one year. It takes 8 minutes for light to reach the Earth from the Sun and the Sun is approximately 150,000,000,000m away from the Earth. It would take about 2.5 million light years to get to the nearest spiral galaxy to ours in the universe. An Astronomical Unit (AU) is the average distance between Earth and the Sun, which is about 93 million miles.