



## Galactic Sorting Challenge

What are galaxies? Why do they look so different from each other? What can we learn from their shapes and structures? It only takes a keen eye and a creative mind to sort galaxies as early astronomers did.

### Grade

- 5-8

### Time

- Prep time to print and laminate images
- 30 min class time

### Next Gen Science Standards

- MS-ESS1-2 Develop and use a model to describe the role of gravity within galaxies and the solar system.

### Utah Core Standards

- 6.3.3 Describe the forces that keep objects in orbit in the solar system.
- 7.1.5 Engage in an argument from evidence to support the claim that gravitational interactions within a system are attractive and dependent upon the masses of interacting objects.

## Materials

- ◇ Galaxy sort images printed and laminated– one set for every student group
- ◇ Frisbee for demonstrating spiral galaxy
- ◇ Football for demonstrating elliptical galaxy

## Directions

- Follow the Galaxy Sorting instruction sheet which has lots of background information and suggestions for how to prompt your students during this activity.

## Videos on galaxies

- How did our Galaxy Form? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKDt7j8Rtfs>

For older students

- Where Do Galaxies Come From? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kif4ON6QOPE>