

Most likely number of contactable alien civilizations is 36

Level 3 • Advanced

KEY

1 Warmer

- b. According to NASA, there are currently five planets classified as dwarf planets: Ceres, Pluto, Makemake, Haumea and Eris. The planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.
- a. A light year is the distance that light travels in vacuum in one Julian year (365.25 days).
- c. A light year measures 9.46 trillion kilometres.
- b.
- c.

Teacher's note: Get the students to do this quiz in teams, and see which team gets the most correct answers.

2 Key words

- equation
- detectable
- assumption
- random
- speculative
- conservative
- unpicked
- upbeat
- evolved
- quest

3 Comprehension check

- F – New calculations have led to the assumption that there are more than 30 other intelligent civilizations in our galaxy.
- T
- F – The number is said to be conservative, so the number of planets that could support life is likely to be higher than 36.
- F – We would need to survive for around another 6,000 years – 6,120, according to the article.
- F – He says that they would have similarities in appearance to life on Earth, and we wouldn't be very shocked by them.
- T

4 Out-of-this-world vocabulary

(possible answers)

alien, astrobiological, astronomer, astrophysics, cosmos, Earth, Enceladus, Europa, extrasolar planet, galaxy, Jupiter, light year, little green man, Mars, Milky Way, mission, moon, planet, Saturn, solar system, space, spaceship, star, Titan, universe

6 Space quotes

- mankind
- frontier
- Control
- Earth
- star
- beyond
- forty-two

Teacher's note: You could ask students to choose one quote from the seven here or another of their own choosing and research it further, reporting back with their findings.