

Name: _____

Date: _____

Outdoor Laboratory: Messier Objects Globular Clusters & Nebulae

Introduction

In the 18th century, discovering comets was a way to be recognized as an astronomer. During the years 1758 to 1782, Charles Messier, a French astronomer (1730 - 1817), compiled a list of approximately 100 diffuse objects that appeared to be cometary at first, but he later determined to be other types of celestial objects. The catalog was his way of keeping track of those objects. Published at the behest of friends and colleagues in 1774, the original catalog contained 45 of those objects, which was grown to 109. The catalog includes nebulae, star clusters, and galaxies. The Messier Catalog may be his greatest legacy, but he is also renowned for the discovery of 13 comets and the co-discovery of at least 6 more!

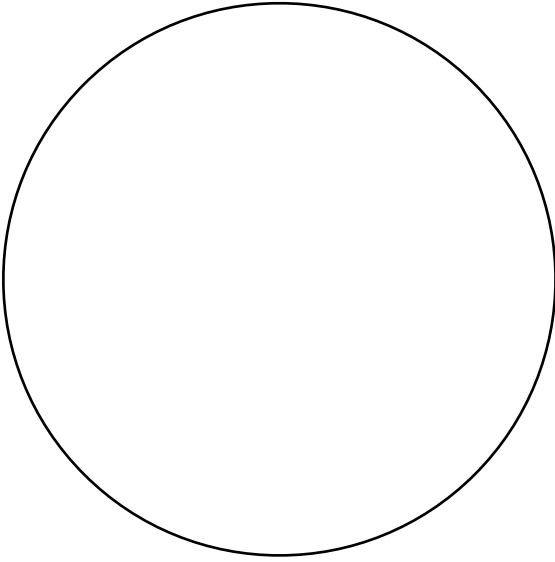
The entire Messier Catalog can be observed through small telescopes and binoculars under dark sky conditions. Under quasi-dark skies, like at the Observatory, the fainter nebulous and galactic objects can be difficult to observe in a finder scope. Over time your observing vision will improve, but initially, you must be very patient.

Procedures

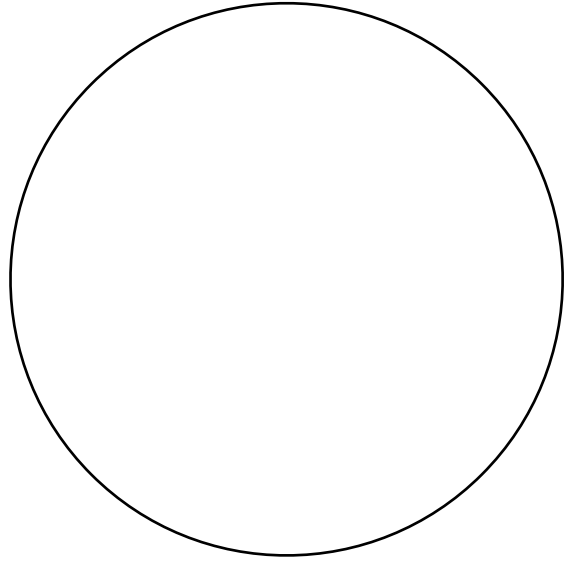
You are to find and sketch at least three Messier objects. One must be a globular cluster. One must be a nebula. The third can be either. Additional space is provided for a fourth. Use the Messier Catalog List in the Peterson Field Guide to identify globular clusters and nebulae and use the atlas charts to help you locate the positions in the sky. Your instructor must observe the object in your eyepiece and initial your sketch in order for you to get credit for the observation

| <u>Messier #</u> | <u>RA</u> | <u>Dec</u> | <u>Instructor Verification</u> |
|------------------|-----------|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | | | |
| 2. | | | |
| 3. | | | |
| 4. | | | |

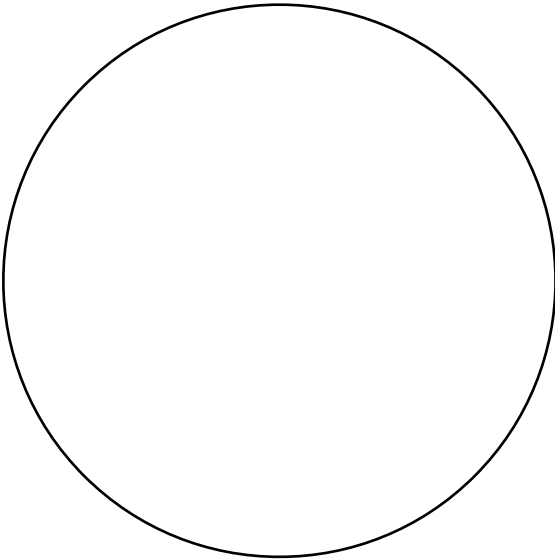
Messier # ____



Messier # ____



Messier # ____



Messier # ____

