

Spontaneous Generation

Building on Scientific Knowledge

Name _____

Date _____

I. Understanding the Universe

Read the first page of the article, **Understanding the Universe: Stargazers**, at: <http://school.discovery.com/schooladventures/universe/stargazers/index.html>

Then starting with Copernicus, click on each “stargazer” and read about each one’s contribution to how our universe changed over time

II. Understanding Discoveries: Exploring the relationship between the universe and spontaneous generation

Write a short essay describing what led to some of the discoveries made about our universe, and how these discoveries are similar to or different from ones learned about in this lesson (related to spontaneous generation).

The first part of the essay should focus on the discoveries about the universe. Instead of simply listing the discoveries made about the universe, look at the progression and possible underlying connections. For example, did one scientist’s discovery help the discovery of another? Note: You may choose to focus on just one or two discoveries.

The second part of the essay should discuss how these discoveries were similar to or different from ones learned about in this lesson (debunking the idea of spontaneous generation). In this part, be sure to discuss *how* you think scientific knowledge changes. For example: Is it sudden? Is it out of the clear blue?