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Alienology

Written by

Dugald A. Steer

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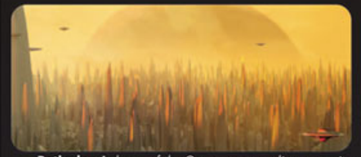
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ALIEN WORLDS

There are billions of planets in our universe. Many are inhabited by alien life-forms, the nature of these life-forms usually being dictated by the nature of their habitat. For example, floating Gasbags live on the swirling ball of gas that is Jupiter. Non-floating creatures would find it impossible to survive there.



Reticulon I, *home of the Grays—a sprawling supercity*



Reticulon II, *home of the Greens*

It rains 1,297 days a year on this jungle planet.



Hokulia I, *a desert planet with few lakes*

The resident Marpeans are good at conserving water.



Ignemia, *home of the Cyberbrains*

A volcanic wasteland hostile to many kinds of life



Gelubus I, *home of the Decapodes*

A layer of thick ice covers a vast, dark ocean.



Jupiter, *home of the floating Gasbags*

Made of gas swirling around a frozen core

THE LOCAL GROUP

Earth lies in a galaxy called the Milky Way, which belongs to a family of more than thirty galaxies that scientists call the Local Group. There are more than a billion clusters of galaxies scattered across the universe, between which are vast stretches of empty space that many aliens must traverse if they are to visit other planets.



HAZARDS IN SPACE

While traveling through space, aliens are careful to avoid the following dangers:



BLACK HOLES—*At the end of a star's life, its core can collapse to create a small, dense object whose gravity is so strong that it sucks everything toward it. Because even light cannot escape, the object is called a black hole. Black holes are a terrifying prospect for alien spacecraft—if crafts fly too close, they are in danger of being sucked in and torn apart! Indeed, where black holes are concerned, pilots should never underestimate the gravity of the situation.*



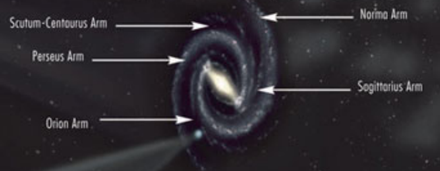
ASTEROIDS—*Asteroids are chunks of rock left over from the formation of planets. In particular areas of space, like the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter in the Solar System, they can prove very hazardous for pilots. Setting a ship on autopilot can reduce fatal collisions.*



ALIEN ATTACK—*Some species, particularly Repton Clones and Insectons, are very belligerent. Other species avoid entering their control zones at all costs for fear of being zapped by warships.*

THE MILKY WAY

The Milky Way is a huge spiral-shaped galaxy that is flat like a plate. It contains more than 200 billion stars.



OUR SUN'S NEIGHBORHOOD

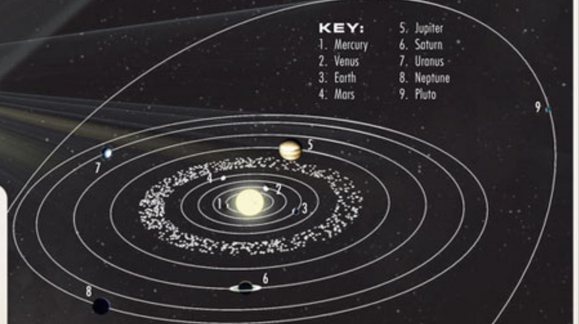
Earth and Earth's Sun are in the Orion Arm of the Milky Way galaxy. Also in the Orion Arm are many other stars around which circle the home planets of the aliens that visit Earth, such as the Decapodes, Tauricans, and Traders.



OUR ALIEN NEIGHBORS

This chart shows the distance from Earth of several stars in the Milky Way whose planets are home to aliens. You can see some of them on the map above. Others, however, lie much farther afield in distant parts of the Galaxy.

STAR	ALIEN SPECIES	DISTANCE (light-years)	STAR	ALIEN SPECIES	DISTANCE (light-years)
Proxima Centauri	Tirenians	4.24	Arcturus	Marpeans	36.71
Alpha Centauri	Tauricans	4.36	Zeta Reticuli	Grays, Greens, and Insectons	39.46
Barnard's Star	Decapodes	5.96			
Sirius	Traders	8.58	Hyades Cluster	Hyadeans	151
Tau Ceti	Cyberbrains and Tau Warriors	11.89	Betelgeuse	Trogs	640
			Alnitak	Cyberdroids	800
Vega	Proboskians	25.30	Deneb	Denebian Cyborgs	1400



THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Earth is a member of the Solar System, which includes the Sun and the planets that travel around it. If the Sun were the size of a soccer ball, Earth would be a seed 25 steps away and Pluto would be a grain of sand more than 1,000 steps away.

DARK MATTER

Everything we can see in space—stars, planets, asteroids, and so on—actually makes up only about 4 percent of the universe's mass. The other 96 percent is comprised of a hidden force called dark energy and a strange, invisible substance called dark matter, which scientists on Earth have not yet been able to explain.

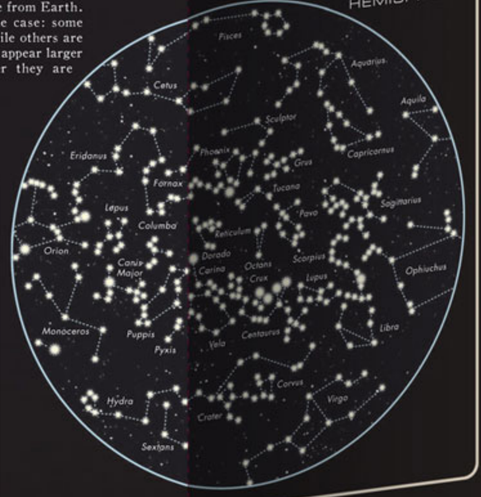
STAR CHARTS

These charts show the groups of stars (called constellations) that can be seen from Earth's Northern and Southern hemispheres. When we look at the night skies, it appears that the stars in a particular constellation are all the same distance from Earth. However, this is not the case: some stars might be close, while others are a lot farther away. Stars appear larger and brighter the closer they are to Earth.

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE



SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE



WHAT IS GRAVITY?

Every object in the universe has gravity—it is a force that pulls things toward one another, holding the planets and moons in their orbits. Large, heavy objects have more gravity than small, light objects. For example, the Earth's gravity is strong, so it pulls us toward it. That's why we stay on the surface instead of floating off into space.

CHAPTER VI
A Guide to Alien Species

Although the aliens who find it easiest to blend in on Earth share basic humanoid appendages, such as arms or legs (as shown in chapter IV), there are other alien species, including the Decapodes and Gasbags, that look quite different. While some humans are repulsed by even looking at these creatures, they should remember that many aliens find humans—especially those with nose hairs—to be very ugly as well. The table at right is a useful alien species reference tool for all cadets.

S.L.I.M.E.
(SURFACE-LIVING INTELLIGENT MULTIPLYING ENDOLITH)

As you may have gathered, S.L.I.M.E. is the deadliest threat the Galaxy has ever known. I cannot stress strongly enough the dangers



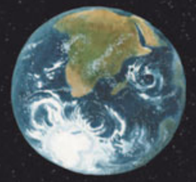
spaceships or other alien species.

Here, S.L.I.M.E. covers an unfortunate Gray seconds before its complete liquidation.

An Embryonic Gray



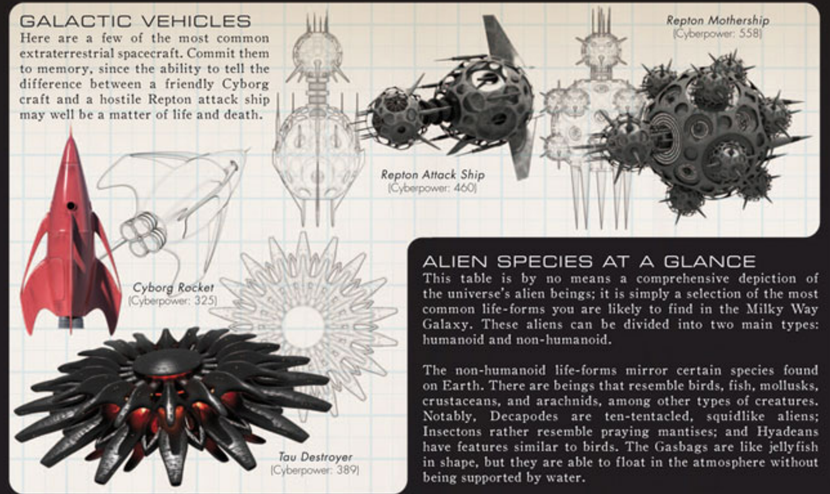
ALIEN REPRODUCTION—Aliens produce young in a multitude of ways. Many species (including the Grays and the Greens) give birth to live young that look like miniature versions of their parents. The juveniles of some species, such as the Decapodes, hatch from eggs. Decapode young undergo metamorphic changes during their life cycle: they pass through a wormlike larval stage before transforming into adults. The Insectons undergo a similar larval stage. Some alien species—the Repton Clones, for example—grow their young in laboratories, in contrast to using natural forms of reproduction.



LOGIC TEST #8:
The surface area of planet Earth is about 200 million square miles. Alien refugees have landed on Earth claiming to be fleeing from S.L.I.M.E., which destroyed their entire civilization and which doubles in size every day. If a single bucket of S.L.I.M.E. was spilled on Earth, they estimate it would take only 29 days to cover its entire surface, wiping out all life. But how many days would it take to cover only half of Earth?

GALACTIC VEHICLES

Here are a few of the most common extraterrestrial spacecraft. Commit them to memory, since the ability to tell the difference between a friendly Cyborg craft and a hostile Repton attack ship may well be a matter of life and death.



ALIEN SPECIES AT A GLANCE

This table is by no means a comprehensive depiction of the universe's alien beings; it is simply a selection of the most common life-forms you are likely to find in the Milky Way Galaxy. These aliens can be divided into two main types: humanoid and non-humanoid.

The non-humanoid life-forms mirror certain species found on Earth. There are beings that resemble birds, fish, mollusks, crustaceans, and arachnids, among other types of creatures. Notably, Decapodes are ten-tentacled, squidlike aliens; Insectons rather resemble praying mantises; and Hyadeans have features similar to birds. The Gasbags are like jellyfish in shape, but they are able to float in the atmosphere without being supported by water.

	SPECIES	CONSTELLATION/ STAR SYSTEM	PLANET/ MOON	PLANET TYPE	SOCIAL INFORMATION	INTELLIGENCE (Humans = 10)	AVERAGE HEIGHT	UNIQUE FEATURES	LIFE INFORMATION	LIFE SPAN (In Earth years)	COMMUNICATION
HUMANOID	GRAYS	Reticulum/ Zeta Reticuli	Reticulum I	Terrestrial: urban; one huge city	Highly developed; democratic; many more males than females	18	6–7 feet tall	Shape-shifters; dark almond-shaped eyes; gray, hairless skin	Born to a male and a female; raised in groups	120	Gamma rays; occasional speech
	GREENS	Reticulum/ Zeta Reticuli	Reticulum II	Terrestrial: jungle with carnivorous plants	Mischievous and greedy; roam around in packs	14	3–4 feet tall	Green; large head with pointy ears; carnivorous; hate plants	Born to a male and a female; raised by mother	45	Can speak but prefer to use gestures
	TAURICANS	Centauran/ Alpha Centauri	New Taurica	Terrestrial: various habitats	Highly developed and intelligent; sociable	20	6–8 feet tall	Pale-skinned humanoid; blond hair; colorless lips	Hermaphrodites	200	Speech
	TRADERS	Canis Major/ Sirius	Kingdor	Terrestrial: mountainous	In conflict over historical mineral rights; very determined	12	5 feet tall	Long fingers; wear armored suits to protect soft, delicate skin	Raised by family groups to be hardy	110	Speech
NON-HUMANOID	CYBERBRAINS	Cetus/ Tau Ceti	Ignemia	Volcanic	Advanced technology; hierarchical	10	16 feet tall	Mechanical, with brain encased in transparent orb	Young produced in laboratories in small transparent orbs	70	Microwaves; color patterns on brains
	CYBERDROIDS	Orion/ Alnitak	Alnitax	Terrestrial: hot climate	Robotic slaves of Reptoir Clones	4	4 feet tall	Some living tissue, but mostly robotic parts; extendable arms	Living tissue is grown in laboratories	15	Binary beeps
	DECAPODES	Ophiuchus/ Barnard's Star	Gelidus I	Ice-covered oceanic	Highly developed technologically; high intelligence	19	10 feet if stretched out	10 tentacles; beaklike mouth; bulbous eyes	Beaklike young are born from eggs in icy water	60	Gestures and color change
	DENEBIAN CYBORGS	Cygnus/ Deneb	Botarion	Terrestrial: desert	A labor force for other species	10	7 feet tall	Biological humanoid organs encased in a strong robotic shell	Component organs grown in laboratories	120	Radio waves
	GASBAGS	Not applicable/ The Solar System	Jupiter	Gas planet	Highly intelligent; small communities; unskilled	19	30–50 feet wide	Reminiscent of jellyfish-shaped cloud with tentacles and bubbles	Develop from a small bubble larva to a floating polyp	400	Bioluminescent display; color change
	HYADEANS	Taurus/ Hyades Cluster	Moons in the Hyades Cluster	Volcanic; rocky terrain	Large groups reside in cliff-face villages	20	8–12 feet tall	2 large feathered wings	Hermaphrodites; community-shared social care	380	High-pitched speech
	INSECTONS	Reticulum/ Zeta Reticuli	Reticulum II	Terrestrial: jungle	Hive community; predators; cocoon prey before eating	14	20 feet tall	Similarities to giant praying mantis; transparent wings	Larvae cared for in nurseries; developed as needed	30	Click language; scents
	LEVIATHANS	Lyra/ Vega	Moon of Inner Vegan	Oceanic	Enormous body; large mouth; tentacles; flippers	19	40 feet tall	Barely sustained, peace-loving individuals	Hermaphrodites; young are left to raise themselves	410	X-rays
	MARPEANS	Boötes/ Arcturus	Rokalie I	Terrestrial: desert; underground cities	6 hexapond-shaped limbs; tough exoskeletons; infrared eyesight	16	4 feet tall	Small tribes adept at conserving water to survive	Early years spent in pitch-black; sight improves with age	44	Speech
	PISKYONS	Not applicable/ The Solar System	Enceladus	Ice and water	Underwater-city dwelling; skilled; fearful of outsiders	18	10 feet tall	Like dolphins with arms and long, snakelike tails (suited for sifting)	Born like mammals; mothers care for young	140	Wiggle-mark
	PROBOSKIANS	Lyra/ Vega	Wellon	Terrestrial: forests and savannas	Live in small family groups in scattered hamlets	19	9 feet tall	Long trunks that manipulate objects, feed, and have sense of smell	Raised by grandparents that return to Wellon for burial	550	Speech
	REPTON CLONES	Orion/ Alnitak	Alnitax	Terrestrial: hot climate	Sinister and devious; all beings are clones of the emperor Reptyn	15	5 feet tall	Reptilian; forked tongue; infrared vision; ear frills; cold-blooded	Infants are hatched in Repton Clone laboratories		
	S.L.I.M.E.	Various	Any terrestrial habitat	Any terrestrial habitat	Single, rapidly expanding being; immortality intelligent	20	Not applicable	Hides underground; surfaces suddenly; slimy purple appearance	Absorbs nutrients to grow and divide	Not applicable	Not applicable; single consciousness
	TAU WARRIORS	Cetus/ Tau Ceti	Vulcanicz	Volcanic	Drones ruled by a Red Queen	13	13 feet tall	Cockroachlike in appearance; can breathe fire	Almost all are male	80	Low-pitched grunts
	TIRENIANS	Centauran/ Proxima Centauri	Terrence	Terrestrial: cold climate	Evolving intelligence; just mastered space flight	9	17–19 feet tall	Extremely long necks; with four flipperlike limbs and a tail	Large family groups care for young	90	Snarls



