

Photo of Andromeda Galaxy wins astronomy prize

18th September, 2020



Photo: Nicolas Lefaudeux

A French photographer has won a top photography contest. Nicolas Lefaudeux won the prestigious prize in the Astronomy Photographer of

the Year 2020 competition. This is run by the Royal Observatory in the UK. Mr Lefaudeux won the \$17,000 prize for his photo of our closest galaxy - the Andromeda galaxy. Andromeda is two million light years from Earth. It neighbours our Milky Way galaxy. Lefaudeux used a special technique called tilt-shift to take his photo. The result is a spectacular photo that makes Andromeda look amazingly close to us. In the photo, we can clearly see the bright, oval-shaped galaxy in the darkness of space. It is surrounded by countless other stars and celestial objects.

Mr Lefaudeux is a celebrated astronomy photographer. His winning photo is titled "Andromeda Galaxy at Arm's Length". It beat thousands of other photos from the world's leading photographers. The photo won in the "Galaxies" category, as well as the competition's overall best photograph. Lefaudeux told reporters he was very surprised at winning the top prize. He said: "I was really not expecting to be the overall winner. I had some hopes for being placed in the galaxy category, as I liked the sense of depth given to the galaxy." He joked that he was "over the Moon" when he got the news that he had scooped the prize. Reporters said he could now "reach for the stars" and win more prizes.

Sources: [livescience.com](https://www.livescience.com) / [forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com) / [dailymail.co.uk](https://www.dailymail.co.uk)

Writing

We should all study astronomy at school. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

photographer / top / prize / royal / galaxy / light years / technique / close / bright / astronomy / reporters / winning / hopes / reporters / sense / depth / Moon / stars

True / False

- a) A Russian photographer won a top astronomy photo prize. T / F
- b) The photo contest was run by the USA Observatory. T / F
- c) The Andromeda Galaxy is two million light years from Earth. T / F
- d) The winning photo showed the Andromeda Galaxy with nothing around it. T / F
- e) The winning photo is called "Andromeda Galaxy at Arm's Length". T / F
- f) The winning photographer was not at all surprised he won. T / F
- g) The photographer said he was over the Moon about winning. T / F
- h) Reporters told the photographer to reach for the stars. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. contest | a. very, very happy |
| 2. run | b. impressive |
| 3. closest | c. heavenly |
| 4. spectacular | d. well-known |
| 5. celestial | e. organised |
| 6. celebrated | f. feeling |
| 7. category | g. nearest |
| 8. sense | h. won |
| 9. over the Moon | i. class |
| 10. scooped | j. competition |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about astronomy?
- b) How interested are you in space?
- c) Should students study astronomy at school?
- d) How good are you at taking photos?
- e) What do you know about the Milky Way?
- f) What kinds of photos do you like?
- g) What do you think of space?
- h) Would you like to go into space?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. A French photographer has won a top | a. other photos |
| 2. his photo of our closest | b. for the stars |
| 3. used a special | c. celestial objects |
| 4. in the darkness | d. best photograph |
| 5. countless other stars and | e. galaxy |
| 6. It beat thousands of | f. of space |
| 7. the competition's overall | g. the Moon |
| 8. I liked the sense | h. photography contest |
| 9. he was over | i. of depth |
| 10. he could now reach | j. technique |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think about astronomy?
- Do you have a favourite photographer?
- What is the best photo you have ever seen?
- Have you ever won a competition?
- When was the last time you were over the Moon?
- What would you like to reach for the stars to do?
- What questions would you like to ask the photographer?

Spelling

- a top photography stncote
- the euigoprists prize
- Lefaudeaux used a special ueqhectni
- a cpsuaeatcrl photo
- Andromeda look igynaalzm close to us
- It is nodsururde by countless other stars
- Lefaudeaux is a ltrbcdeae astronomy photographer
- ndatosshu of other photos
- The photo won in the "Galaxies" gotarcey
- expecting to be the olreavl winner
- I liked the sense of dthpe
- he had oosdcep the prize
a top photography stncote

Answers – Synonym Match

1. j	2. e	3. g	4. b	5. c
6. d	7. i	8. f	9. a	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Space

You think space is the best thing to take photos of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least photogenic of these (and why): cute puppies, nature or food.

Role B – Cute Puppies

You think cute puppies are the best things to take photos of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least photogenic of these (and why): space, nature or food.

Role C – Nature

You think nature is the best thing to take photos of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least photogenic of these (and why): cute puppies, space or food.

Role D – Food

You think food is the best thing to take photos of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least photogenic of these (and why): cute puppies, nature or space.

Speaking – Photography

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to take photos of at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| • Space | • Families |
| • Flowers | • Nature |
| • Cute puppies | • Food |
| • Children | • Yourself |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.