

Internet Scavenger Hunt:

Astronomer Maria Mitchell



Name: _____

On October 1, 1847, astronomer Maria Mitchell discovered the first comet that could not be seen without a telescope. Learn more about this discovery by using the Web site below to answer the questions.

Web site: www.distinguishedwomen.com

URL: <http://www.distinguishedwomen.com/biographies/mitchell.html>

1. When Mitchell first saw the “star” (later identified as a comet), where in the sky was it?

2. Who awarded Mitchell a prize (gold medal) for her discovery? _____

3. Name one organization that voted her in as the first woman member. _____

4. Why did Mitchell receive a new telescope when she returned from a trip to Europe?

5. What were her research activities when she was a professor at Vassar College?

Something to think about: What kind of discovery would you most like to make?

Learn more: Consider Mitchell’s legacy: <http://www.mmo.org/observatories/observatories.html>.