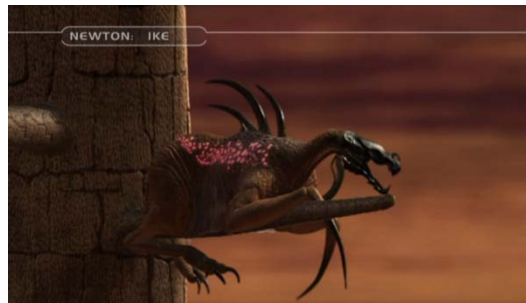


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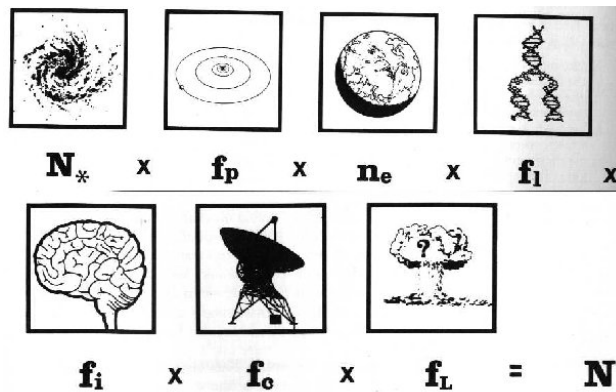
Alien Planet



Introduction:

In recent news, scientists released a statement indicating they had discovered a planet Gliese 581c, which appears likely to be able to support life. Unfortunately, Gliese 581c is over 20 light years away, far too distant to be explored with our current (or even foreseeable) technology.

Scientists have frequently wondered if there are other intelligent beings living on nearby worlds. One such researcher, Dr. Frank Drake developed an equation which could serve to predict the frequency of intelligent life. It goes as follows...



Where N=number of planets supporting intelligent life, this can be estimated by taking the number of stars in the galaxy (N_*), times the % of those stars which have planets (f_p), times the % of those planets which could support life (n_e), times the % of those planets on which life actually arises (f_i), times the % of those planets which develop intelligent life (f_i), times the % of those life forms which develop advanced technology, times the length of time each of these civilizations last.

Given this equation, it may seem that we are truly alone, however, since the number of stars in our galaxy is unbelievably huge, we may have hundreds of nearby stars harboring intelligent life. However, if intelligent civilizations tend to be short-lived, we might not exist at the same time, and we might truly be alone.....

What you are about to see, is a hypothetical exploration of an imaginary planet Darwin IV. This planet and it's creatures are fictitious, however, they are reasonable extrapolations, as to how life might develop on an alien world.

1. How far away is Darwin IV from Earth?
2. Why must the VonBraun, and its probes utilize artificial Intelligence?
3. How would Ike & Leo greet intelligent life forms should they encounter them?
4. How do the inhabitants of Darwin IV visualize their environment in the absence of eyes?
5. How does the *daggerwrist* catch its prey?
6. How does the *groveback* camouflage itself?
7. How do Darwin IV predators feed on prey in the absence of jaws?
8. How do *skewers* develop thrust to fly?
9. What is so unusual about Darwin IV's only sea?
10. What is the largest creature found on Darwin IV?
11. What was the fate of Leo & Ike?
12. Do you believe in life on other worlds? Why or why not?