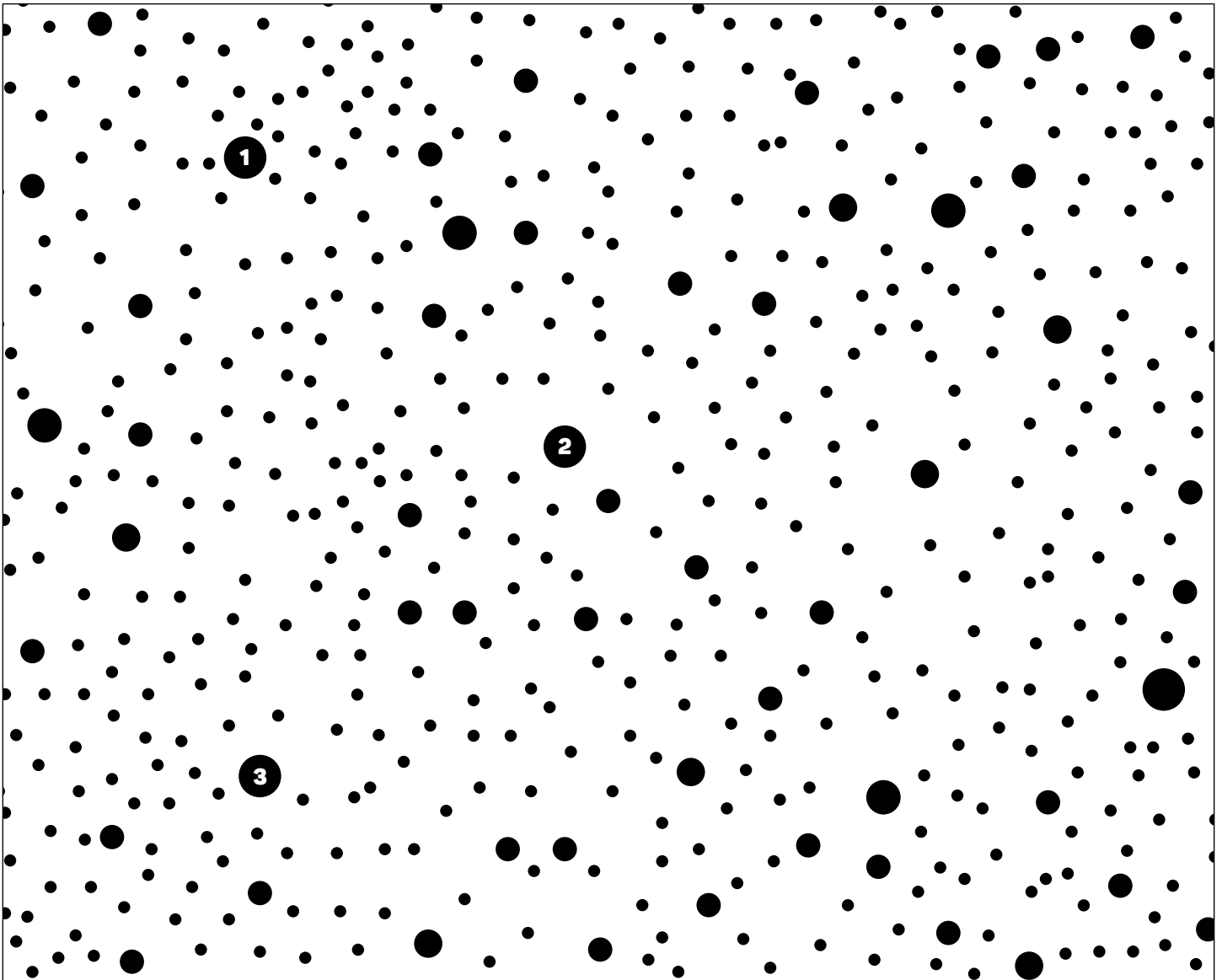


Are We at the Center of the Universe?

Does the universe even have a center?



Try This!

1. The dots in this image represent galaxies. Let's say Dot 1 is our galaxy, the Milky Way. Try lining Dot 1 on the paper with Dot 1 on the transparency overlay. What do you notice? Does it match up with what you saw in the Expanding Universe activity?
2. Now, line Dot 2 on the paper with Dot 2 on the overlay. What changed? Try lining Dot 3 on the paper with Dot 3 on the overlay. What's going on? Can you find the center of the universe?

Most galaxies in the universe are moving away from most other galaxies. There is no center of the universe. We can only take measurements from where we are in our galaxy, so it seems like we are at the center and most other galaxies are moving away from us, like you saw with Dot 1. But if we were able to measure from some other galaxy in the universe, like Dot 2 or Dot 3, it would appear that other galaxies were moving away from those points as well. From the point of view of any galaxy, that galaxy appears to be at the center of our expanding universe.

Overlay

