

Drake Equation Activity Answers

Drake Equation Parameters and Estimates

A	B	C	D	E
Parameter	Brief description	Drake's numerical estimate	Your numerical estimate	Your scientific rationale for selecting your numerical estimate
R	number of suitable long-lived stars born on average each year in our galaxy	5		
f_p	percentage of suitable stars that form planets	50%		
n_e	average number of planets for each star with planets	2		
f_l	percentage of planets with life-supporting conditions that develop life	100%		
f_i	percentage of planets with life that develop intelligent life	20%		
f_c	percentage of intelligent species using sophisticated communication technology	100%		
L	average length of time that a civilization using sophisticated communication technology exists	10,000		
N	number of communicating civilizations in our galaxy	9,980		