Measuring the Cosmos

Key Measure Conversions

1 m = 0.001 km | 1 AU (astronomical unit) \approx 149,600,000 km

1 km = 1000 m | 1 light-year $\approx 9.461 \times 10^{12}$ km

A. Metric Conversions

1. The launch tower is 120 meters tall. Convert to kilometers .	
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- 2. A communication cable stretches **0.75 kilometers**. Convert to **meters**.
- 3. Your spacecraft traveled 1,200,000 meters on its initial launch. How many km is that?
- 4. A probe moves **8.2 km** in space. Convert this distance to **meters.**

B. Interplanetary Conversions

- 5. The Moon is about **384,400 km** from Earth. How many **meters** away is that?
- 6. Mars is roughly 225,000,000 km from Earth. Convert to astronomical units (AU).
- 7. Neptune orbits the Sun at about **4.5 billion km**. Convert this to **AU**.
- 8. A distant asteroid is 14.96×10^8 km from the Sun. Express this in AU.

C. Interstellar Distances

- 9. The nearest star, Proxima Centauri, is 4.01 × 1013 km away. How many light-years is that?
- 10. A signal travels **9.461 × 10¹¹ km**. How many **light-years** has it traveled? _____

Bonus Challenge

11. The Voyager 1 spacecraft has traveled **24 billion kilometers** from Earth. How many **astronomical units** is that?

