Launch to the Cosmos – Galaxy Shapes

Don’t forget to record data and observations as you work through this activity. All of the questions and reminders from the activity are listed in order below.

1. Before you begin, draw a picture of a galaxy below.

2. Galaxy Zoo Navigator classification questions always begin with the same question. What is the question? Why do you think scientist chose that question to start with? (Consider the answer choices you are given.)

3. Sketch, describe, or paste in an image of any unusual galaxies you find. What questions do you have? (We may not be able to answer them right away, but they will provide you with ideas about investigations you can do later.)
4. Construct a graph that shows the distribution of apparent brightness (how bright the galaxy appears in the sky) for smooth galaxies and galaxies with features. Describe the type of graph you made or paste a snapshot in below. What conclusions can you draw from your work?

5. Create a graph that allows you to answer the question: How does your group’s data compare to that of the larger group of citizen scientists contributing to the Galaxy Zoo?

6. Create a diagram of any shape or variety (chart, web, tree) to organize your galaxies. Explain your reasoning for organizing the objects the way you did.