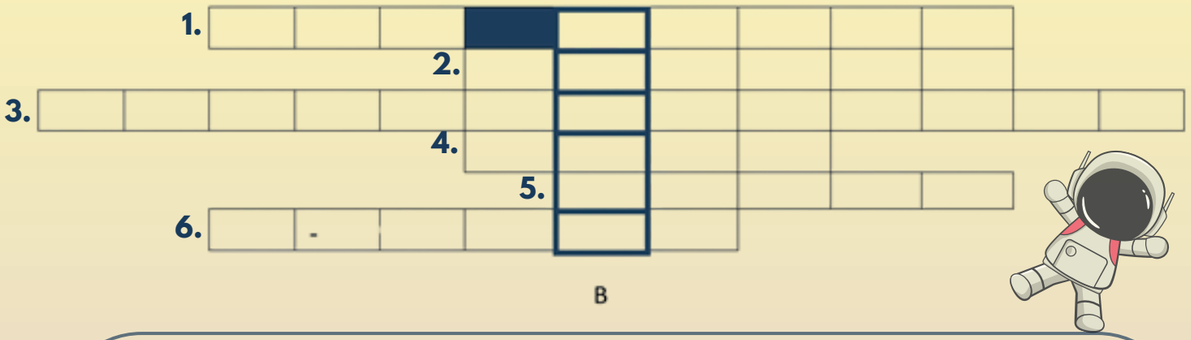
# REBUS




1. Which type of planet is primarily composed of hydrogen and helium and is much larger than Earth, like Jupiter or Saturn?
2. Which planet is famous for its beautiful rings?
3. A group of stars that forms a recognizable pattern in the night sky is called a...?
4. Which planet is known as “The Red Planet”?
5. Which noble gas is found in trace amounts in planetary atmospheres?
6. High-energy electromagnetic radiation detected from space includes gamma rays, UV, and...?























-daily news-

# ASTROPHILE

first edition

20 October, 2025




Yesterday, our city began to shine a little brighter. As teams from 20 countries stepped through the gates of Colegiul Național Petru Rareș, Piatra Neamț became more than a host — it became a meeting place of dreams, curiosity, and friendship.

For one week, the stars above us are not just to be observed, but to be shared — through laughter, teamwork, and discovery. Whether you come from near or far, we hope you’ll feel at home among our mountains and our people.

Here’s to a week full of knowledge, new friendships, and endless memories. Welcome to IOAA Junior 2025 — welcome to “Petru Rareș” National College, welcome to Astrophile where every page is a piece of your story.

"Where mountains touch the sky and stories meet the stars."



## WEATHER

SUNNY,
10°C / 50°F

-2°C / 29°F

# Welcome Everyone!



Memories from the past 2 days (the 18th & 19th of October):

After long flights and even longer journeys, the participants of IOAA Junior 2025 finally arrived in Piatra Neamț on the evening of October 18. The teams enjoyed a cozy dinner at their hotel and some well-deserved rest after their travels.












The next morning, October 19, began with a bright autumn sun and the cheerful energy of discovery. After breakfast, the students set off on a guided city tour led by our enthusiastic volunteers.

## Guided Tour:




**Upon arrival in Piatra-Neamț, the young participants in the International Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad had a packed-guided tour of the city. As part of this activity, the Olympians visited the Baal Shem Tov Synagogue, the oldest Jewish church in Romania. The Royal Court area also offered them other cultural sites worth remembering, such as the Church of Saint John the Baptist, which impresses with its Moldavian style from the end of the 15th century, the unique Stephen's Tower, the Youth Theater and the cellars. The students learned the mysteries of the Cucuteni culture, in the archaeological museum of the same name. The Art Museum, where they got acquainted with the works of Romanian painters such as Nicolae Tonitza, Iulia Hălăucescu, Lascăr Vorel, Nicolae Grigorescu and Victor Brauner, was among the participants' favorites, reproducing the essence of the authentic artistic side of the Neamț area. Overall, the young people were introduced to the community that hosts them with great love and openness to any questions.**

some impressions from Sweden...

**We really enjoyed the guided tour. Although a little different from Sweden, more precisely Scandinavia, the area where we come from, the nature is just as beautiful. We loved the view towards the forest and the mountains. It is something truly relaxing and spectacular, exactly what we needed! We hope that every day will be very beautiful!**



## The Opening Ceremony:







**The opening ceremony of the International Olympiad in Astronomy and Astrophysics was a grand and emotional event held at the elegant Grand Elysee. It marked not just the start of a competition, but a celebration of unity, excellence, and diversity. The atmosphere was charged with excitement as students, teachers, officials, and guests gathered. The ceremony began solemnly with the host country's anthem, performed by a performed by a choir made up of teachers and students belonging to Victor Brauner High School, whose vocal harmony gave the beginning a special symbolic and emotional charge.**

**The Minister for Education and Research of Romania, Daniel David, conveyed his thoughts and wished success to the participating students through a message transmitted live, remotely. We were fortunate to have with us some distinguished dignitaries who offered words of welcome and encouragement on behaf of their respective institutions: Mr. Ionuț-Liviu Ciocoiu, General School Inspector of Neamț, Mrs. Ana Elisabeta Naghi, Inspector for the Ministry of Education and Research, The Department of Mathematics and Astronomy, Mr. Cristian Pârghie, President of the Scientific Committee of IOAA Junior 2025, Mr. Mihai Dimian, Ph.D. Rector of ,,Ștefan cel Mare" University of Suceava, Honorary President for the IOAA Junior 2025, Mr. Grigoruță Oniciuc, the Vice President of the IOAA Junior 2025 Central Commission and the Headmaster of Petru Rareș National College, Mr. Adrian Bourceanu, Prefect for the County of Neamț, Mr. Ion Asaftei, Vice President of the Neamț County Council, Mr. Adrian Niță, the Mayor of Piatra-Neamț, Mr. Laurențiu-Dan Leoreanu, the Mayor of Roman Municipality and Professor Aniketh Sule, President of the Central Commission of the 4th Internatiional Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics for Junior 2025.The choir from Victor Brauner High School gave a moving artistic performance, after which a lively parade of national delegations took place. Teams proudly carried their flags, symbolizing the event's theme: excellence in diversity.**

**Traditional folk dances by a local ensemble brought joy and cultural color to the evening, concluding the celebration.**

**Speakers highlighted the value of international collaboration and the Olympiad's mission to promote academic excellence and global friendship. The event will be remembered as a celebration of science, art, and human connection—demonstrating the unifying power of education.**





## FUN FACT

### Garlic in Romanian Folklore

Used to protect against evil spirits.

Also used in every dish your grandma makes.

Coincidence? Probably not.