

E11 Basic Sky-watching

Level(s) – yr 4 -13



Lesson Focus:

Students will be introduced to the night sky and learn how to pick out basic stars, planets and constellations. Demonstration of simple navigation techniques using the stars, as well as insights into how things move in the sky through time

Specific Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this lesson the students will be able to...

- Identify some stars and constellations seen in the evening sky for that season.
- Identify some or all planets and be able to differentiate them from stars.
- Find south using the Southern Cross.
- Know the constellations of the Zodiac and what makes them special (advanced).
- Use a star chart.

Suggested Learning Activities: *(identify some potential learning activities)*

- **Sky Tonight: (yrs 4-13, approx 20 mins)**
A simulation of the night sky for that evening is projected onto the dome, the educator points out prominent stars, constellations and planets. For older students this session can include the movement of the stars over time, a demonstration of how to find south using the Southern Cross, and how the Zodiac constellations differ from the other constellations.
More in-depth coverage of visual astronomy can be incorporated as suits the students' ability.
- **Starcharts: (yrs 4-13, approx 20 mins)**
Students are shown how to use a star chart to identify stars and constellations in the night sky.

Curriculum Links:

e.g. Science – Astronomical Systems L4-7

Science – Planet Earth and Beyond – Astronomical systems.

Science – Planet Earth and Beyond – Earth systems.

Resources & Preparation:

e.g. people, physical items, specialised rooms/areas

- Star chart printouts for teacher.

Key Competencies:

Please tick:

Thinking

Using language, symbols and texts

Managing Self

Relating to Others

Participating and Contributing

Prior Knowledge and Experiences:

Identify knowledge which students must already have in order to successfully achieve the identified learning outcomes