

S.T.A.R. TOUR

Our STAR-LAB planetarium takes students on an exploration of the night sky — during the day! Activities match grade level standards. The tour is 90 minutes including teacher-supervised museum exploration time. Program options include bird migration, weather, constellations, star fields, and Native American legends. (Also available as a “Museum-to-Go” program.)

5th GRADE

Standards:

Science

Language Arts

Earth and Space Science

Standard 6. THE UNIVERSE:

Conceptual Strand 6: The cosmos is vast and explored well enough to know its basic structure and operational principles.

GLE 0507.6.1. Compare planets based on their known characteristics.

Teacher Questions, Pre-Tour

Q: Why is the system we live in called “the solar system”? List the planets that make up our system, describing their size, orbit time, etc.

Teacher Questions, Post-Tour

Q: After our STAR-LAB program, what did you learn about the relationship between the Earth and the other planets? How are they alike? How are they different? Do you think any other planet could support life as we know it? Why/how or why not?

GLE 0507.6.2. Recognize that charts can be used to locate and identify star patterns.

Teacher Questions, Pre-Tour

Q: Over time, how have people tried to explain the movements of the planets and the stars? How have people used stars in their exploration of our own planet?

Teacher Questions, Post-Tour

Q: After our STAR-LAB program, what did you learn about the relationship between the Earth and the stars, or among the stars?

What constellations are visible in the Western hemisphere at this time of the year?

Using a book such as *The Stars* by H.A. Rey (2008, 1952), choose a constellation and report to the class how it is charted, any stories or legends about it, and from what culture those legends originate.

Language Arts

Recommended Reading:

Nonfiction:

A Child's Introduction to the Night Sky: The Story of the Stars, Planets, and Constellations--and How You Can Find Them in the Sky by Michael Driscoll (2004).

Don't Know Much About the Solar System by Kenneth C. Davis (2004). (Ages 6 - 9 and older.)

Find the Constellations by H.A. Rey (2008). HMH Books, 2nd edition.

Flight of the Golden Plover: The Amazing Migration Between Hawaii and Alaska by Debbie Miller. (2011). (Grade 3 +).

Janice VanCleave's Constellations for Every Kid: Easy Activities that Make Learning Science Fun by Janice VanCleave. (1997).

On the Wing: American Birds in Migration by Carol Lerner (2001). (Gr 3-6.)

The Stars by H.A. Rey (2008, 1952). HMH Books, 2nd edition. (Upper elementary, classroom reference).

Fiction:

All the Stars in the Sky: Native Stories from the Heavens by C.J. Taylor (2006). (Ages 8 and up.)

Native American Tales and Legends by Allan Macfarlan (2001). (Age 9 and up).

They Dance in the Sky: Native American Star Myths by Ray A. Williamson (2007). (Ages 10-14)