

Start a fascination with Space. Use the opportunity of a clear night sky to view and even identify what is beyond the Earth.

Develop your observational skills and over time track changes in the night sky. Look for patterns and discover the science behind the changes. Generally quiet observation outside at night will develop a sense of awe. It can be linked to creative writing of space journeys.

Put on warm clothes, head outside on a clear night and make yourself comfy. Reduce any artificial light and wait for your eyes to adjust to the dark. Red light can be used without affecting your night vision.

Star Map: Record your observations. Draw a circle, about 12cm across, to represent the sky above you. Mark where North is and on the circle edge any key trees or buildings you can see on the horizon for orientation.

Look straight up first, and record what you see in the middle of the circle. Then record anything lower on the horizon near the edge of the circle, as you look in all directions.

Add a time, date, location, weather and notes.

Is it a Star? There are many stars (distant suns) but if it moves then it could be a satellite or a shooting star if it then disappears (meteor burning up). Planets appear similar but don't 'twinkle' like a star. Download a free app like 'Sky Map' or 'Stellarium Star Map' for an interactive view to help identification.

Moon: Follow the different phases of the moon through the month, from a no moon being visible to a full moon.

Constellations (collections of stars): Can you identify the Big Dipper (or plough), Orion's Belt, Cassiopeia (W shape)? Can you see the North Star, lining up the last two Big Dipper stars in its 'bowl'? See the three pictures for their shape.

Notes:

General Information: <https://gostargazing.co.uk> **Online star map:** <https://stellarium-web.org/>
SpaceX rocket launch on 30/05/20 and space station docking: <https://www.spacex.com/>

Environmental Awareness

*Appreciate and draw inspiration from the environment
Experience 'awe and wonder'*

Time:
20 min+

Space:
Any Outdoor Space

Equipment:
Paper, Pencil, Warm Clothes

