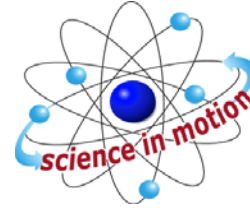


SECTION 8: STARS- OBSERVING CONSTELLATIONS LAB



Westminster College

INTRODUCTION

A light year is a unit of measure for distance in space and equals the distance light travels in 1 year. Light travels 300,000 km (186,000 miles) per second. It takes 8 ½ minutes for light to reach us from our Sun and 4.5 light years for light to reach us from the next closest star, Centauri Proxima. The distance between the Sun and Earth is 93 million miles. In this section, students will discover how far away the stars are, study constellation patterns, and how the stars change during the seasons.

ASSESSMENT ANCHORS ADDRESSED

- S4.A.3.1** Use models to illustrate simple concepts and compare the models to what they represent.
- S4.A.3.3** Identify and make observations about patterns that regularly occur and reoccur in nature.
- S4.D.3.1** Describe Earth's relationship to the sun and the moon.

PURPOSE

Students will do a variety of activities to help them study constellations in school and at home.

MATERIALS

For the class:	For each pair:
*toilet paper cardboard roll	1 pin
2 worksheets	1 telescope

*Teacher provides items marked with **