

FAMILY ADVENTURES WITH MATH & SCIENCE

Family Adventures with . . . SPACE Stars

Books in the kit related to “stars”:

Stars

There’s No Place Like Space

Magic School Bus Lost in the Solar System

- Read the book ***Stars***, located in the kit. Discuss the book with your child to determine what he/she already knows about the sun, moon, and stars in the sky.
- Go out on a clear night (preferably someplace dark with few lights from houses or streets) and observe the night sky. If you have binoculars, take them with you. Discuss what you see.
- Sing and act out *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* (located on the back of this page).
- ◆ Use the star finder, located in the kit, to view, locate, or name the stars at night.
- ◆ To create your own night sky, draw a picture with wax crayons (not washable) and then paint over it with black watercolors. (The wax crayon should repel the watercolor allowing the crayon pictures to “shine” through.) Alternate suggestion: Draw a picture with markers and then color over the entire picture with a black crayon. Scratch off some of the crayon to see the “stars” in your night sky picture.
- How many of the star facts, located on the back of this page, did you already know?
- Many cultures have different ways to explain the sun, moon, and what they see in the night sky. If you are interested in reading how other cultures interpreted events in the sky, check out *Tales of the Shimmering Sky* by Susan Milord from your local library. This book also contains other parent and child activities to do at home.

Family Adventures with . . . SPACE
Stars continued

Star Facts

- ❖ Our sun is actually a star – it is the only star close enough to Earth for us to feel its heat.
- ❖ The sun is 93 million miles away from the Earth.
- ❖ The sun is so big that if it were hollow it could hold one million Earths.
- ❖ Without the sun’s light and heat, plants and animals could not survive.
- ❖ The temperature in the middle of the sun is about 27,000,000 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ❖ Stars are made of gases.
- ❖ Stars make heat and light from gases.
- ❖ Huge groups of stars in space are called galaxies.
- ❖ We live in the Milky Way Galaxy – it is made up of about one trillion stars.
- ❖ Stars are actually round – they look star-shaped from Earth because the light from the stars twinkle and blink.
- ❖ Patterns of stars in the sky are called constellations.
- ❖ On a clear, dark night you may be able to see several thousand stars.

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle little star,
How I wonder what you are,
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky,
Twinkle, twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are!

(open and close hands)
(point to hand in wonder)
(point to sky)
(make diamond shape with fingers)
(open and close hands)
(point to head in wonder)

Anonymous