



Fernbank Science Center

Title: STARLAB (1099)
Level: Kindergarten
Location: Local School

Type: Outreach
Length: 40 minutes
Limit: One class/period

Program Description

Starlab is a miniature planetarium, complete with dome and star projector. Day and night, current constellation patterns in the stars, and counting and pattern activities are included.

Georgia Performance Standards Addressed

Students will

- 1) SKE1 describe time patterns (such as day to night and night to day) and objects (such as sun, moon, stars) in the day and night sky;
- 2) MKG1 correctly name simple two and three-dimensional figures, and recognize them in the environment.

Vocabulary

constellation
star projector

season
planetarium

star
rotation

Pre-Visit Activities

- 1) Read Franklyn Branley's book, The Sky is Full of Stars (ISBN 0-690-445002), to your class.
- 2) Share the picture of Starlab with students so they will know what to expect.

Post-Visit Activity

1009 StarLab Activity sheet addresses MKG: correctly name simple two and three-dimensional figures, and recognize them in the environment.

Resources: The Big Dipper and You, by E. C. Krupp ISBN 0-688-07191-0

Notes:

- 1) The Starlab planetarium requires a 20x20 ft. clear floor space with an 11 ft. vertical clearance. No other activity can take place in the room during the Starlab program.
- 2) Teachers will accompany classes into the planetarium and are responsible for discipline during the programs.
- 3) Starlab is entered by crawling through a short tunnel. Please advise students to wear appropriate clothing.

1099 Post Visit Activity

Shapes in the Stars

Kindergarten Star Lab Program

GPS addressed in this program:

- 1) SKE1 describe time patterns (such as day to night and night to day) and objects (such as sun, moon, stars) in the day and night sky;
- 2) MKG1 correctly name simple two and three-dimensional figures, and recognize them in the environment.

During the StarLab program, students identified three animal constellations:

Pegasus the flying horse
Taurus the bull
Leo the lion

Each animal had a geometric shape of stars within it:

Square in Pegasus
Triangle in Taurus
Circle in Leo

Students traced the shapes in the StarLab sky.

This activity sheet reminds students of the constellations they saw, and gives them practice in drawing and identifying the three geometric shapes.

Photocopy the activity sheet, one for each student, and invite students to identify the animals and trace the shape within each constellation figure.