

Changing Constellations - Educator's Guide (Ages 12-15)



At the end of these Night Sky activities students will understand:

- Many of the constellations we can see at night change over the course of a year
- The changing constellations follow a cycle over the course of a year.
- These annual changes are caused by the Earth rotating around the Sun

Astronomy background information

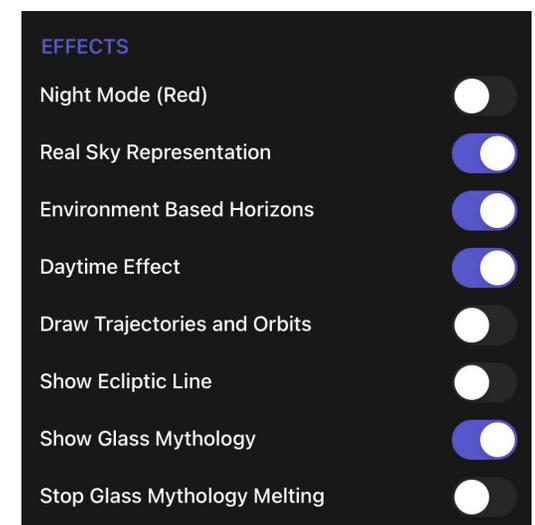
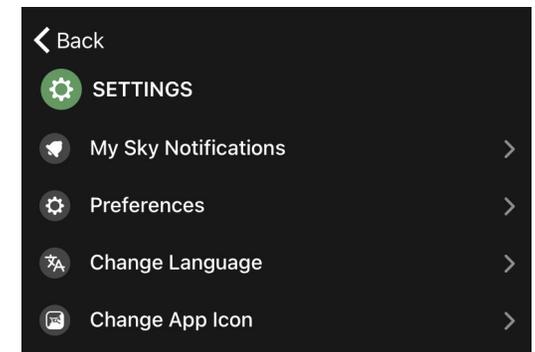
The Earth is continuously moving in orbit around the Sun. It revolves around the Sun once a year. The Earth's movement means that our view of the sky changes over time. Night by night, the positions of the stars in their constellations will change.

We can look at the constellations on one night but six months later many of the same patterns will not be visible. As a consequence, we cannot see all the constellations on every night of the year.

This seasonal change shows that the Earth is moving around the Sun. As we travel around the Sun we are looking in different directions at night.

Accessible Learning:

- Text size can be increased in the Preferences section
- Star numbers can be reduced by sliding two fingers down the screen



Night Sky App Essential Settings

Go to Night Sky Settings  and make sure the following Preferences are set.

Turn On these Effects:

Show Glass Mythology
Show Constellation Lines
Real Sky Representation
Environment Based Horizons
Daytime effect

Turn Off these Effects:

Show Trajectories and Orbits
Show Ecliptic Line