

# Exploring Lyra - Activities (Ages 8-11)



## Today we are going to investigate:

- How to find the constellation Lyra
- The brightest star in Lyra
- How Lyra appears in 3D
- How far away its closest star is
- An object in Lyra which isn't a star

## Activities

- 1 Today we are going to look at a constellation of the summer sky called Lyra. First we are going to locate the constellation. Use the Space Travel tab to set the time and date to a time to an evening in a summer month. Lyra is a very small constellation (Tip: Use Search if you cannot find it).

**Question:** What is this constellation meant to look like?

- a) Heavenly gates   b) Musical instrument   c) Warrior's shield

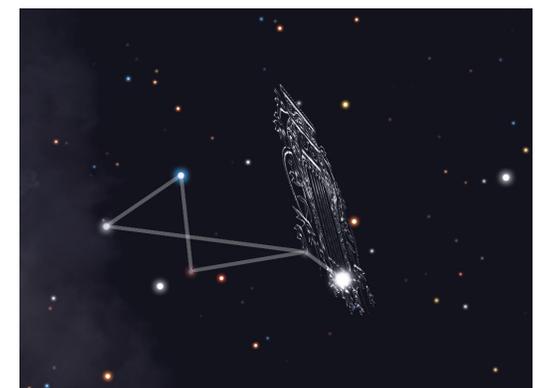
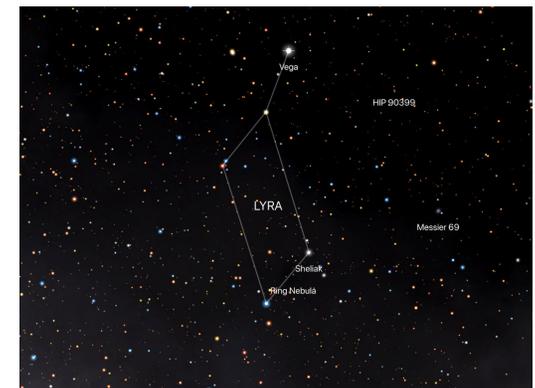
- 2 Next, go to Settings and turn off Show Glass Mythology to make it easier to see the stars of Lyra. The brightest star in Lyra is the second brightest star we can see in the Northern Hemisphere sky.

**Question:** What is the name of Lyra's brightest star?

- 3 The stars in the constellations are not all the same distance away from us. Use Night Sky to get a three dimensional view of the stars of Lyra. Tap on the name Lyra, two small circles should appear. Place your fingers on these and pull apart to enter the 3D view. You can use your finger to move the constellation around.

**Question:** How would you compare Vega's distance from us compared to the other stars in the constellation?

- a) Further away   b) Closer to us   c) Similar distance



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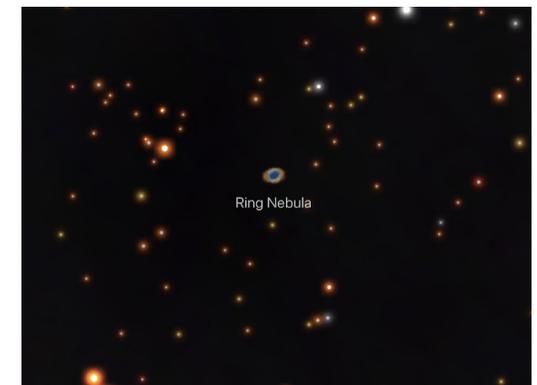
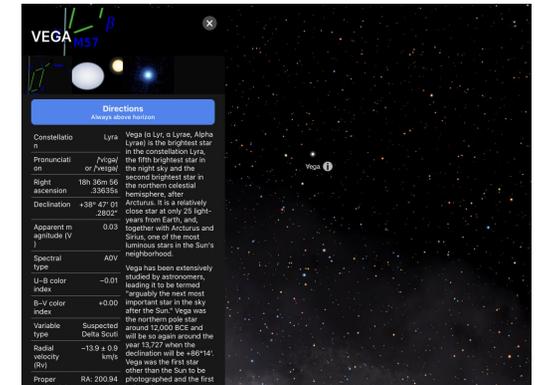
4 Close the 3D view by tapping the  in the top right corner. Tap on Vega to bring up its name and then tap on the  to bring up an information tile. You will see that Vega is close to us compared to the other stars of Lyra.

**Question:** How many light years is Vega from us?

5 Lyra contains a small but beautiful deep space object that isn't a star. Locate it by zooming in on Lyra with your fingers until the label Ring Nebula appears. Carefully zoom in on this label until you see a tiny oval shape. Tap on the Ring Nebula to bring up its name label and tap the  to find out more information.

**Question:** What type of object is the Ring Nebula?

- a) Galaxy   b) Planetary Nebula   c) Reflection Nebula



 Well done!  
You're a Night Sky  
Superstar! 

## What we have discovered:

- Lyra is a small constellation in the summer sky
- One of its stars is the second brightest star in the Northern Hemisphere
- Stars in constellations are not all the same distance away from us
- There is a small nebula in Lyra