

Exploring Pegasus - Activities (Ages 8-11)



Today we are going to investigate:

- Where and when to look for the constellation Pegasus
- What type of creature is Pegasus
- The stars of Pegasus
- Objects in Pegasus

Activities

1 Today we are going to look at a famous Fall (Autumn) constellation called Pegasus. In Greek Mythology Pegasus was a legendary horse with a special power.

Question: Why was Pegasus special?

He was fast

He could fly

He could talk

2 Start up Night Sky and use the Space Travel tile to change the date to any evening in November and look south. Move the stars with your finger to see if you can find Pegasus. (Tip: If you find this hard, try typing Pegasus into Search). Some of the stars in Pegasus make the corners of a familiar shape.

Question: What shape can you see?

Square

Triangle

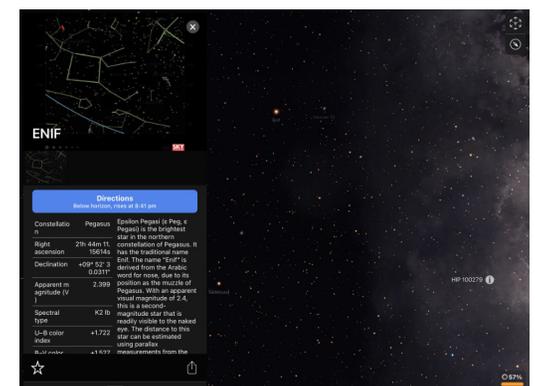
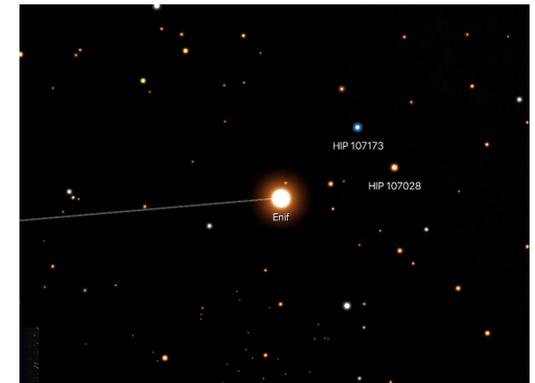
Hexagon

Pentagon

Question: What are the names of the four stars that make up the Great Square?

3 Find the star in Pegasus called Enif. Use the  icon to bring up the information panel to find out more about it.

Question: What does Enif mean?



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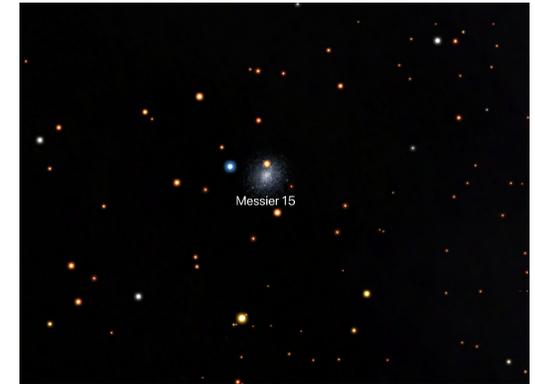
- 4 Many star names in Pegasus and other constellations are in another language used by many astronomers in history.

Question: What language is this?

Italian Chinese Arabic

- 5 To the right of Enif can you see an object labelled Messier 15? You can zoom in to get a better view of this object which is a large ball of over 100,000 stars called a globular cluster. Tap on the label to bring up the  icon for more information.

Question: What do astronomers think is at the centre of Messier 15?



What we have discovered:

- Pegasus is a constellation seen in the Fall (or autumn)
- Four stars make up the Great Square of Pegasus
- Many stars have names taken from the Arabic language
- Globular clusters like Messier 15 are giant balls of stars

★ ★ Well done!
You're a Night Sky
Superstar! ★ ★