

Changing Constellations Class Activities (Ages 12-15)



Today we are going to investigate:

- How the constellations we see change over the course of a year
- How the Earth moving through space effects our sky
- How long it takes for the Earth to orbit the Sun

Activities

- 1 Open Night Sky, look at the sky view and use your finger to move the sky around until you are looking to the south. Use the Space Travel tab (see pic right) to set the time to 23:00 (11pm) tonight. Find some constellations.

Questions:

Which constellations can you see?
What season are we currently in?

- 2 Use the Space Travel tab and tap to select the current month. Underneath, slide the months along to set the date to six months from now. Look south at 23:00 (11pm) again.

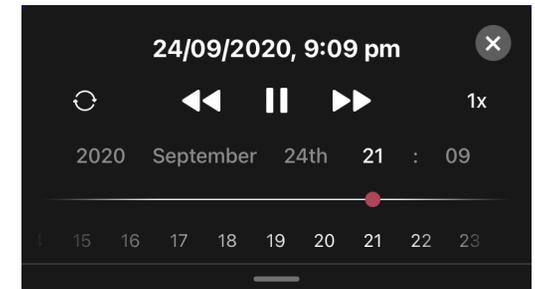
Questions:

What season will it be on this date?
What constellations can you see in the sky view now?
Can you see any constellations you can see on today's date?

- 3 Use the Space Travel tab to set the date to twelve months from now. Look south again at 23:00 (11pm).

Questions:

What constellations can you see now?
Can you see any of the constellations you can see on today's date?



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- 4 Use the Space Travel tab to set the date to other times of year. Keep looking south at 23:00 (11pm) and see how the constellations in the sky have changed.

Questions:

Are all the same constellations visible every night of the year?
Would you expect to see the same constellation in the sky on the same date every year?
Why do you think this is?

What we have discovered:

- Our view of the constellations changes over the year.
- It takes a year for the Earth orbit to orbit around the Sun.
- As the Earth moves we see different parts of the sky over the course of a year.