

Exploring Scorpius - Activities (Ages 8-11)



Today we are going to investigate:

- How to find Scorpius in Night Sky
- The mythological story behind this constellation
- The brightest star in this constellation
- Star clusters in the constellation

Activities

- 1 Today we are going to look at a summer constellation called Scorpius. Start up Night Sky and use the Space Travel tile to change the date to any evening in August and look south. Move your finger to see if you can find Scorpius. (Tip: If you find this hard try typing Scorpius into Search). Take a look at Scorpius and you will find a glowing cloud-like feature passing through it and extending around the sky. It is called the Milky Way.

Question: What type of object is the Milky Way?

- a) Solar System b) Nebula c) Galaxy

- 2 Scorpius is the constellation of the Scorpion. It represents a scorpion who stung a heroic hunter in an ancient Greek story. The hunter was so famous that another constellation was named after him.

Question: What was the name of the hunter in the legend?

- a) Pegasus b) Orion c) Andromeda

- 3 The brightest star in Scorpius is also one of the brightest stars in the sky. It is called Antares. Find Antares and zoom in for a closer view. In ancient Greece this name meant "Rival of Mars" because the two objects were very alike in one way.


Question: How do you think Antares and Mars are alike?

- a) Their colours b) Their sizes c) Their temperatures



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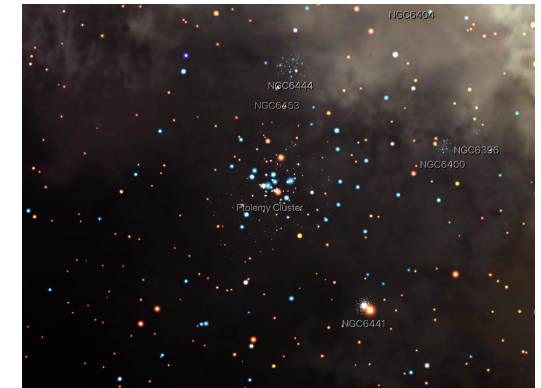


- 4 Places in space where many stars are grouped together are called clusters. Zoom in near the stinger in the tail of Scorpius until you find one of these star clusters called the Ptolemy (pronounced “Tall-em-me”) Cluster. It is named after an important Roman astronomer. Tap on the  to find out more about the Ptolemy Cluster.

Question: In what year did Ptolemy record this cluster?

- 5 In ancient times, Scorpius was a much larger constellation. It used to have much larger claws. Astronomers split off the stars of the claws and made them a separate constellation which is now in the sky beside Scorpius.

Question: The constellation Libra was once the Scorpion’s claws
True or False?



Well done!
You're a Night Sky
Superstar!

What we have discovered:

- Scorpius is the constellation of the Scorpion
- Antares is the brightest star in Scorpius
- There are several star clusters in this constellation
- Part of Scorpius was split off to make another constellation