

# Exploring Andromeda - Activities (Ages 8-11)



## Today we are going to investigate:

- Where Andromeda is in the sky
- The mythology of Andromeda
- The stars that make up Andromeda
- Other objects in Andromeda

## Activities


- 1 Start up Night Sky and look around the sky by moving your finger. Look at all the creatures and characters from the Greek myths.

**Question:** Can you find the constellation of Andromeda?  
(Tip: If you can't find it in the sky try typing 'Andromeda' into the Search box.)

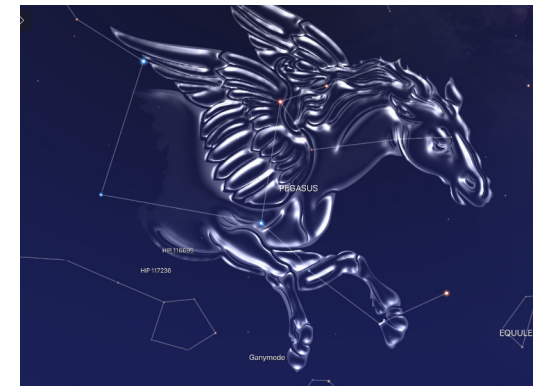
- 2 In Greek mythology Andromeda was a princess who was chained to a rock to be sacrificed to a sea monster. You can see the chains on her arms. She was saved by a hero riding a winged horse called Pegasus.

**Question:** Can you find the constellation of Pegasus next to Andromeda?

- 3 You can see that Andromeda and the constellation Pegasus appear to be joined together. The star where they touch is called Alpheratz. For most of history Alpheratz belonged to the constellation of Pegasus but in 1923 astronomers decided it should be in Andromeda instead.


Go to Preferences in the Settings menu  and turn off Show Glass Mythology. This constellation has a famous object located in it. It is the Andromeda Galaxy. A galaxy is a giant island of stars, gas and dust.

**Question:** Can you zoom in to see a close up view of the Andromeda galaxy?



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- 4 The Andromeda Galaxy is the furthest away object that you can see with the unaided eye. It is 2.5 million light years away from us. The Andromeda Galaxy is moving towards us. It will eventually merge with our own Milky Way into one larger galaxy. Tap on the  icon to bring up an information panel on the Andromeda Galaxy.

**Question:** How many stars are in the Andromeda galaxy?


- 5 The Andromeda galaxy is an example of a **spiral galaxy**. Not all galaxies are spiral shaped or as large as Andromeda. There are two small irregular galaxies very, very close to the Andromeda Galaxy. They are called Messier 32 and Messier 110.

**Question:** Can you zoom in further and locate Messier 32 and 110?



### What we have discovered:

- What the constellation Andromeda looks like in the sky
- The Greek myth about Andromeda
- The star Alpheratz used to be in the constellation of Pegasus
- The constellation contains a large galaxy which will eventually merge with our own
- The Andromeda galaxy has two small companion galaxies

 Well done!  
You're a Night Sky  
Superstar! 