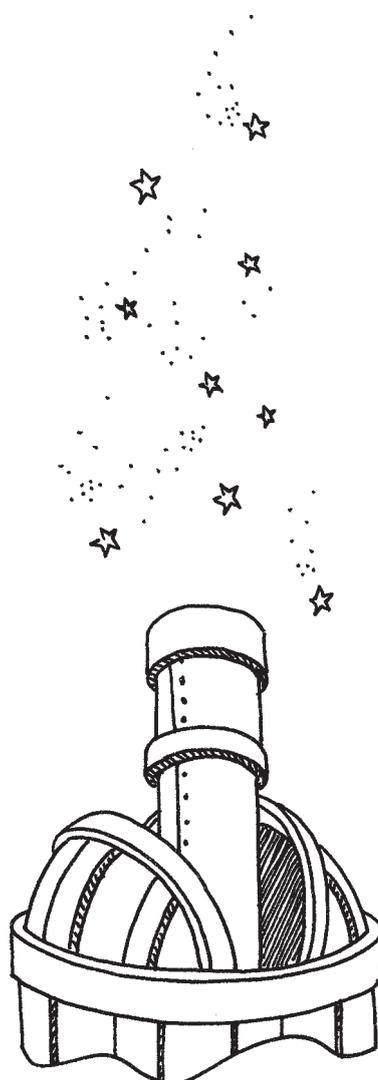


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A NOTE TO TEACHERS AND PARENTS

This book is full of exciting activities for children and fascinating facts about stars. Every page is written directly for children, with information and activities that they can easily understand.

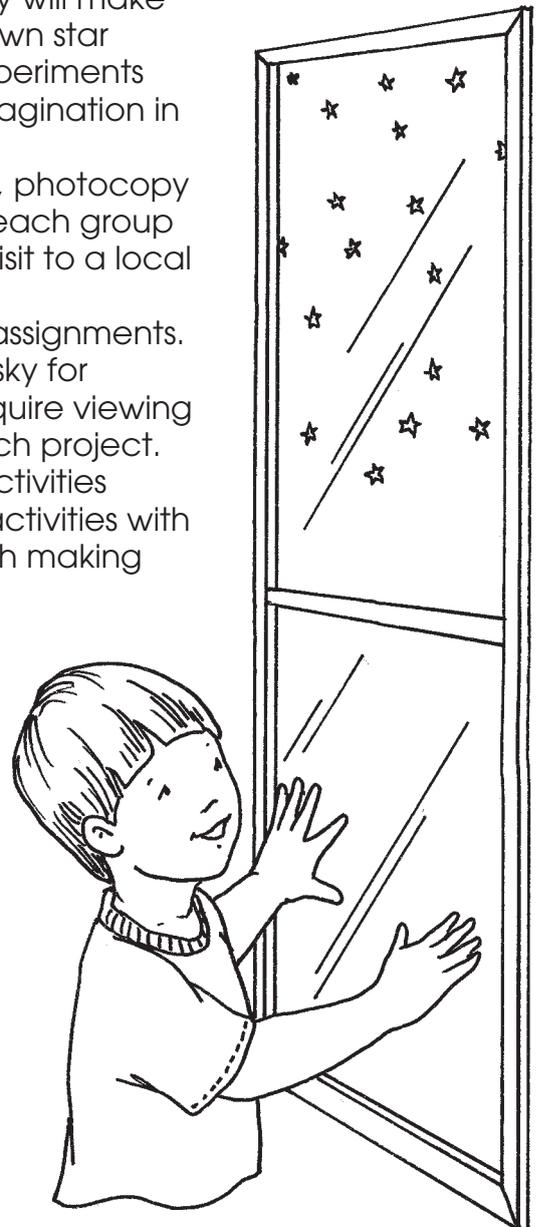
Topics in this book cross the curriculum: science, English, maths, history and art. For example, children will learn about latitude and using the stars to find directions. They will make up myths about constellations and create their own star patterns. In addition, they will conduct simple experiments and learn the importance of observation and imagination in the scientific world.

If you are working through this book as a class, photocopy the activities and give a page to each child (or each group of students, if you are doing group activities). A visit to a local planetarium makes an excellent excursion.

Many of the projects are ideal for homework assignments. Watching a meteor shower, checking the dawn sky for disappearing stars and searching for satellites require viewing the night sky. Interviewing a star is a good research project.

Parents can also help their children with the activities in *Stars*. They can read directions aloud and do activities with their children. For example, parents can assist with making the star charts or join in on viewing meteors or star clusters.

The most important thing about *Stars* is that children will enjoy exploring the world of science. You can help make their scientific explorations and experiments a success.



WELCOME TO THE NIGHT SKY

You have a free ticket to see a new show every night. You don't need a TV set or the Internet to enjoy looking at the night sky. At first, it may look like white dots twinkling on a dark background. However, soon you'll see patterns and notice different sizes and colours. You'll learn how to tell a star from a planet. You'll also learn the names of stars and constellations.

People who study the stars are called astronomers. To become a star scientist, start by filling out your Stellar Astronomer's badge. Write your name, age, address and favourite star or group of stars on the badge pattern. You might choose the Southern Cross or Orion. Cut out the badge and cover it with clear Contact to protect it.

Before you continue, see how much you already know about stars by taking the Stars Quiz. Then check the answers to the quiz. Try testing your friends' or your family's star knowledge with the quiz.

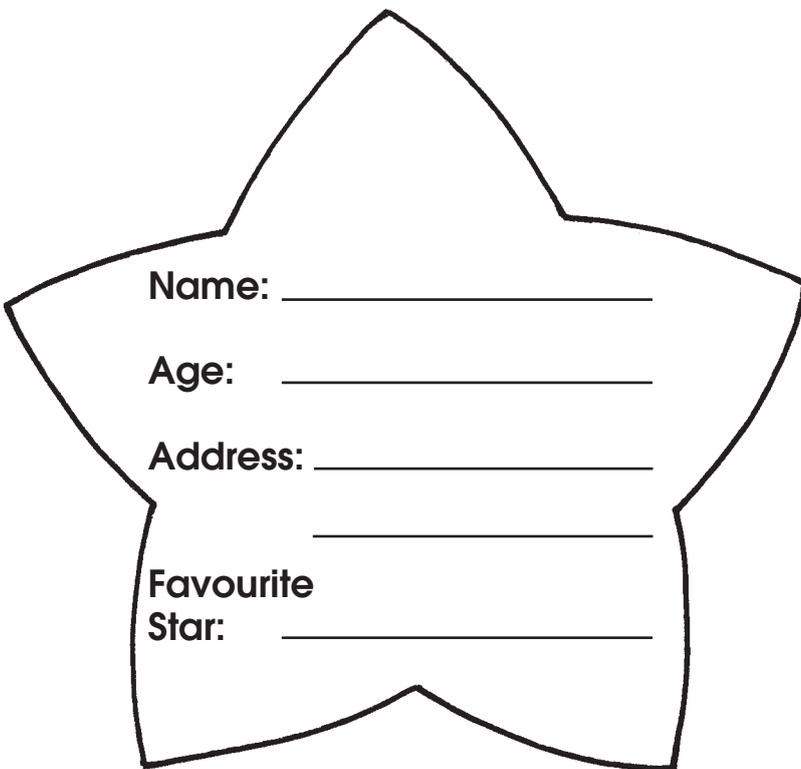


Use your Stargazer's Notebook to begin recording any information you find interesting. Once you fill up this page, continue by using blank notebook paper. Staple a construction paper cover to your notebook. Decorate the cover with your own drawings or use shiny stick-on stars.

Astronomers learn more about the stars all the time. Often the weather reports in daily newspapers include information about the planets and stars that are visible that night, along with the times the sun rises and sets and the phases of the moon. Learn more about stars by searching the Internet and by visiting a planetarium.

What you see in the night sky depends on where you are and the time of year. If you live in a big city, streetlights and neon advertising signs brighten the night sky. This makes it more difficult to see the stars clearly. You will see more stars if you live in the country. Where you are in relation to the equator affects what you see, too.

Always check the night sky whenever you travel – at the beach or camping in the bush or visiting friends in another town. There are a trillion stars to see, so start looking!



Name: _____

Age: _____

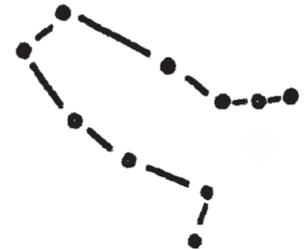
Address: _____

Favourite Star: _____

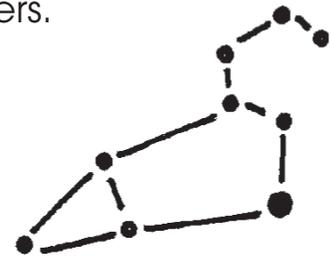
STARS QUIZ

Answer each question with TRUE or FALSE.

1. A shooting star is a travelling star.
2. The Sun is one of the biggest stars.
3. On a clear night, away from city lights, you can see 1500 stars without using a telescope.
4. All stars are about the same distance from Earth.
5. The Saucepan is the biggest constellation.
6. Scientists who study the sky are called astronomers.
7. The Milky Way is the name of our galaxy.
8. The Evening Star is one of the brightest stars.
9. People who live in Australia see the same stars as people who live in the United States.
10. The zodiac contains 12 constellations.

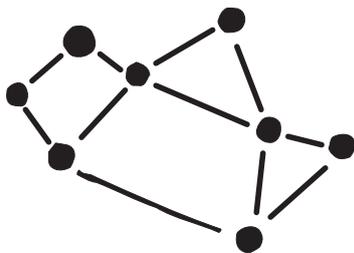


Gemini



Leo

Saggitarius



Libra