

5th Grade Astronomy Unit

Benchmarks

Chapter 4: The Physical Setting

The Universe

4A(3-5)#1: The patterns of stars in the sky stay the same, although they appear to move across the sky nightly, and different stars can be seen in different seasons.

4A(3-5)#3: Planets change their positions against the background of stars.

4A(3-5)#4: The earth is one of several planets that orbit the sun, and the moon orbits around the earth.

4A(3-5)#5: Stars are like the sun, some being smaller and some larger, but so far away that they look like points of light.

The Earth

4B(3-5)#2: Like all planets and stars, the earth is approximately spherical in shape. The rotation of the earth on its axis every 24 hours produces the night-and-day cycle. To people on earth, this turning of the planet makes it seem as though the sun, moon, planets, and stars are orbiting the earth once a day.

Motion

4F(3-5)#3: Light travels and tends to maintain its direction of motion until it interacts with an object or material. Light can be absorbed, redirected, bounced back, or allowed to pass through.

Chapter 11: Common Themes

Models

11B(3-5)#2: Geometric figures, number sequences, graphs, diagrams, sketches, number lines, maps, and stories can be used to represent objects, events, and processes in the real world, although such representations can never be exact in every detail.

Chapter 12: Habits of Mind

Manipulation and Observation

12C(3-5)#3: Keep a notebook that describes observations made, carefully distinguishes actual observations from ideas and speculations about what was observed, and is understandable weeks or months later.

Communication Skills

12D(3-5)#2: Make sketches to aid in explaining procedures or ideas.

12D(3-5)#3: Use numerical data in describing and comparing objects and events.