

End-of-Unit Astronomy Assessment Rubric

“Big Ideas” or Concepts of the Astronomy Unit	Answer(s) demonstrate complete understanding of the concept(s)	Answer(s) demonstrate almost complete understanding of the concept(s)	Answers demonstrate incomplete or partial understanding of the concept(s)	Answers demonstrate major misunderstandings or no understanding of the concept(s)
Part 1: The earth revolving around (orbiting) the sun causes monthly changes to the position of stars in the sky and which stars are seen in the sky. Since planets also revolve around the sun, they change their position in the sky and are therefore part of different constellations throughout the year.				
Part 2: Stars can be bigger or smaller than the sun. However, they are so far away from earth that they look like tiny points of light.				
Part 3: The earth rotates (spins) on its axis. This movement makes it look like the sun and stars are moving across the sky from east to west. The sun and stars are not actually moving. It is the rotation of the earth that makes it look like the stars are moving across the sky. The rotation of the earth also causes day and night.				
Part 4: Planets orbit the sun and the moon orbits the earth.				
Part 5: Models can be used to represent objects or things that happen in the real world. Models are used to learn about those objects or events, especially when it would be difficult to study them in the real world. It is important to understand the purpose of the purpose of a model, how a particular model is like the real thing, and how it is different from the real thing.				