

Mississippi
Elementary School

Starry Night Lesson Plans
Grades K-2 Grades 3-4

Kindergarten

8. Describe the appearance of the sky by day and by night. (E)	1, 3, 4	2, 3
a. Describe the appearance of the sun in the sky (very bright; visible only by day).	1, 3	2
b. Describe the appearance of the stars in the sky (faint; some brighter than others; visible only by night).	1, 3	3
c. Describe the appearance of the moon in the sky (visible by day; bright by night; different shapes).	1, 4	
d. Describe the appearance of clouds in the sky (sometimes covering part or all of the sky; sometimes white or dark gray; sometimes bringing rain; sometimes colorful at sunset; sometimes hiding the sun, moon, and stars).	1	

Grade 1

3. Identify and describe daily changes in the sky. (E, P)	1, 3, 4	2, 3
a. Describe the changing position of the sun in the daytime sky.	1, 3	2
b. Describe the changing position of the stars in the nighttime sky.	1, 3	3
c. Describe the changing position of the moon in the sky.	3, 4	
d. Identify day and night as parts of a cycle of regular change.	1, 3	2, 3
4. Examine the structure of the solar system. (E, P)	1, 2	1, 2
a. Name the nine planets.	2	1
b. Identify the sun as the major source of energy.	1	2

Grade 2

3. Explore the structure of the Solar System. (E)	2	1
a. List and describe the nine planets in order.	2	1
b. Identify the sun as a star.	2	1
4. Identify and describe weekly and monthly changes in the sky. (E)	4	
a. Describe the apparent shapes of the moon from week to week.	4	
b. Identify the moon's phases as parts of a cycle of regular change.	4	

Mississippi
Elementary School (cont'd)

	Starry Night Lesson Plans	
	Grades K-2	Grades 3-4
Grade 3		
3. Identify and describe the appearance of stars in the night sky. (E, P)	1, 3	3
a. Locate and identify constellations as imaginary patterns of stars that remain fixed in shape from night to night.	1, 3	3
b. Describe the actual nature of stars as distant suns that appear small and faint only because of their great distances.	1, 3	3
Grade 4		
3. Communicate an understanding of the interaction of bodies in the solar system. (E, P)	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3
a. Explain why the apparent size of an object depends on its distance from the observer.	2	1
b. Describe the interaction between the Earth, Sun, Earth's moon, and planets of the solar system.	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3
c. Describe the apparent motion of constellations in the night sky (east to west throughout the night, east to west throughout the year).	1, 3	3
4. Identify and describe the visual and telescopic appearance of planets and moons. (E, P)		
a. Locate and identify planets as bright, shining bodies that move in front of the background of constellations.	2	1
b. Explain the nature of telescopes as devices that collect light and enlarge the apparent size of distant objects to reveal otherwise unseen features.	2	1
c. Describe the physical features of the moon (craters, plains, mountains) and the planets.	4	1