

Delaware
Elementary School

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

Grades K-3

The shape of the Earth is similar to a sphere.	2	1
From Earth many objects may be seen in the sky including the Sun, the Moon, stars, and man made objects.	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 3
The Sun and Moon appear to move slowly across the sky.	1, 3	2
The pattern of day and night repeats every 24 hours. The Sun can only be seen in the daytime.	1	2
The Moon can be observed sometimes at night and sometimes during the day.	4	
The appearance of the Moon changes in a cycle that takes about a month.	4	
Binoculars allow people to observe objects in the sky from Earth.	2	1

Grades 4-5

The apparent path of the Sun, as seen from Earth, is from east to west. Over the course of a day, half of the Earth is always illuminated by the Sun causing day, and the half not illuminated by the Sun experiences nighttime.	1, 3	2
The cycle from day to night is caused by the Earth's rotation. Earth undergoes one complete rotation about every 24 hours.	1, 3	2
The Moon orbits the Earth. The appearance of the Moon changes as it moves through its orbit. These changes are called phases.	4	
The Sun is much larger than the Moon. Although the Moon is closer to Earth than the Sun, the two appear to be the same size when viewed from Earth. This is because objects appear smaller as the distance from the viewer increases.	2	1
Earth is one of the planets in our Solar System that orbits the Sun. The Sun we see during the day is our nearest star. Stars we see at night lie outside our Solar System.	2	1, 3
Humanity's view of the Solar System has expanded enormously as a result of our exploration of outer space. The Hubble telescope gives us a better view of the many planets than the view we have from the Earth. Robot probes, sent to planets, send back close-up pictures of their surfaces.		1
Terrestrial telescopes allow people to observe objects in the sky from Earth.	2	1, 3