

New Mexico
Elementary School

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

Grades K-4

Standard III (Earth and Space Science): Understand the structure of Earth, the solar system, and the universe, the interconnections among them, and the processes and interactions of Earth's systems.

Kindergarten:

Know the structure of the solar system and the objects in the universe.	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3
Observe that there are many objects in the night sky and that some are brighter than others.	1, 2	1, 3
Describe the location and movements of objects in the sky (e.g., stars, Sun, moon).	1, 3, 4	1, 2, 3
Know the structure and formation of Earth and its atmosphere and the processes that shape them.	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3
Observe that changes in weather occur from day to day and season to season.	1, 3	2
Observe that the Sun warms the land and water and they warm the air.	1	2

Grade 1

Know the structure of the solar system and the objects in the universe.	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3
Observe the changes that occur in the sky as day changes into night and night into day.	1, 3	3
Describe the basic patterns of objects as they move through the sky:	1, 3	2, 3
• Sun appears in the day	1	2
• moon appears at night but can sometimes be seen during the day	1, 4	
• Sun and moon appear to move across the sky	3	2
• moon appears to change shape over the course of a month.	4	
Recognize that the Sun, moon, and stars all appear to move slowly across the sky.	3	2, 3

Grade 2

Know the structure of the solar system and the objects in the universe.	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3
Observe that the phase of the moon appears a little different every day but looks the same again after about four weeks.	4	
Observe that some objects in the night sky are brighter than others.	1, 4	1, 3
Know that the Sun is a star.	1, 2	1
Know the structure and formation of Earth and its atmosphere and the processes that shape them.	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3
Recognize the characteristics of the seasons.	1, 3	2

New Mexico
 Elementary School (cont'd)

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Grade 3

Know the structure of the solar system and the objects in the universe.	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3
Describe the objects in the solar system (e.g., Sun, Earth and other planets, moon) and their features (e.g., size, temperature).	2, 4	1
Describe the relationships among the objects in the solar system (e.g., relative distances, orbital motions).	2	1
Observe that the pattern of stars stays the same as they appear to move across the sky nightly.	3	3
Observe that different constellations can be seen in different seasons.		3
Know that telescopes enhance the appearance of some distant objects in the sky (e.g., the moon, planets).		1

Grade 4

Know the structure of the solar system and the objects in the universe.	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3
Understand that the number of stars visible through a telescope is much greater than the number visible to the naked eye.		3
Know that the pattern of stars (e.g., constellations) stays the same although they appear to move across the sky nightly due to Earth's rotation.	2	3