

South Dakota
Elementary School

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

	Grades K-2	Grades 3-4
Earth/Space Science Indicator 2: Analyze essential principles and ideas about the composition and structure of the universe.	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3
Grade 1		
Identify what can be observed in the sky by the unaided eye in the day and at night. Example: Illustrate a day sky and a night sky including Sun, Moon, stars, clouds, etc.	1, 2, 3, 4 1	1, 2, 3
Grade 2		
Identify the basic components of space. Examples: Sun, Moon, planets, stars.	1, 2, 4	1, 3
Grade 3		
3.E.2.1. Students are able to identify the Earth as one of the planets that orbits the Sun.	2	1
All planets orbit the Sun.	2	1
3.E.2.2. Students are able to recognize changes in the appearance of the Moon over time.	4	
Know that the Moon does not change shape, but at different times appears to change shape.	4	
Explain the relationship between the rotation of the Earth on its axis and the day/night cycle.	1, 3	3
Describe the causes for Earth's seasons.		2, 3
Grade 4		
4.E.2.1. Students are able to describe the motions of Earth, Sun, and Moon.	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3
Revolution and rotation: Use terminology to describe the phases of the Moon. Examples: waning moon or waxing moon	4	
Describe relative size and position of moons, planets, and stars.	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3
Identify the characteristics of the planets. Examples: appearance, size, distance from the Sun	2	1
Grade 5		
5.E.2.1. Students are able to describe the components (Sun, planets, and moons) of the solar system.		1, 2, 3
Relative size	2	1
Order and relative distance from the Sun and each other		1
Describe the relative scale of the Earth to the Sun, planets, and the Moon.	2	1
5.E.2.2. Students are able to explain how the Earth's rotation affects the appearance of the sky.	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3
Constellations appear to move as a result of Earth's rotation. Example: The Big Dipper appears in different locations throughout the night.	1, 3	2, 3
Apparent brightness of a star depends in part upon its distance from the Earth. Example: A flashlight beam appears brighter as it moves closer.		3