

Astonishing Astronomy

Students learn all about the moon when they create a lunar eclipse on our home planet. See the size difference between the Earth and its moon.

SUMMARY:

In this class, children recreate a solar and lunar eclipse, work out the relative size and distance of the Earth and its moon, and learn why the moon can appear different at different times. Students will also learn to tell the difference between objects when the children explore the phenomenal events that take place in the night sky.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

This workshop provides students with an opportunity to experiment with eclipses and learn just how far away our moon is. It introduces children to phenomenal space events. Children investigate asteroid impacts and meteors, learn to differentiate the lights of airplanes from those of satellites, and explore the nature of comets. Hands-on activities encourage students to interact with the concepts presented. This lesson provides an opportunity to develop scientific skills through inquiry based instructional methods.



TAKE-HOME MESSAGE:

- 1 Objects in the sky can be identified by their speed, size, and color.
- 2 The sun, moon and stars all appear to move slowly across the sky.
- 3 The moon's observable changes follow a pattern.

TAKE-HOME PRODUCT:

Mad Science® Space Telescope

North Carolina Essential Standards:

Recognize the features and patterns of the earth/moon/sun system as observed from Earth.

- 1.E.1.1 Recognize differences in the features of the day and night sky and apparent movement of objects across the sky as observed from Earth.
- 1.E.1.2 Recognize patterns of observable changes in the Moon's appearance from day to day.