



## Our Sun and Other Stars Lessons

### Websites

#### General

##### [The Planetary Society](http://www.planetary.org/)

Offers extensive up-to-date information and pictures of the most current happenings in astronomy.

( <http://www.planetary.org/> )

##### [Astronomy Picture of the Day](http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html)

Each day a different picture from space is shown with an information sheet to go along with it.

( <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html> )

##### [StarChild](http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/StarChild.html)

This child-friendly NASA site offers an enormous amount of information about astronomy for children to explore independently.

( <http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/StarChild.html> )

##### [Science, Optics & You](http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/primer/java/scienceopticsu/powersof10/)

View the Milky Way at 10 million light years from the Earth. Then move through space towards the Earth in successive orders of magnitude until you reach the subatomic universe of electrons and protons.

( <http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/primer/java/scienceopticsu/powersof10/> )

#### Stars Outside Our Solar System

##### [NASA- Astronomy Picture of the Day](http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/lib/aptree.html)

Detailed images of star clusters beyond our solar system.

( <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/lib/aptree.html> )

##### [Curious About Astronomy?](http://curious.astro.cornell.edu/stars.php)

This informational site for teachers provides lots of facts about stars as well as links to other star sites.

( <http://curious.astro.cornell.edu/stars.php> )



### [Interactive Sky Chart](#)

Launch the Interactive Star Chart on this site to create star charts for your location and date. Once the star chart is showing, clicking on the “plus” hours will cause the stars and planets to move across the screen. Using the Interactive Star Chart requires registration and login, which is free.

( <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/skychart> )



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### Books

#### Stars

The list below includes books to encourage children to continue learning stars, space, and space camp. Two books concern huge numbers and size.

#### **All About Space (Scholastic First Encyclopedia)**

By Sue Becklake. (2002, Scholastic Reference)

Perfect for elementary-school children, a reference book that includes a table of contents, glossary, index, and "How to Use This Book." Chapters include The Universe, The Solar System, Studying Space, and Space Travel. Each topic (e.g., the sun, Saturn, galaxy, astronomer, astronaut) is discussed in a two-page spread with full color illustrations, including many photographs.

#### **The Atlas of Space**

By Jack Challoner. (2003, Franklin Watts Ltd)

A comprehensive, illustrated reference guide for children that includes contents, glossary, index, and labeled maps and diagrams. Chapters include Watching the Sky, The Solar System, Deep Space, and Space Exploration.

#### **Blasting Off to Space Academy (Ultimate Field Trip 5)**

By Susan E. Goodman; photographs by Michael J. Doolittle. (2001, Atheneum)

Anecdotal storytelling and photos let readers join a group of kids who go to U.S. Space Academy for a week. They try on flight suits and the lives of training astronauts. They use NASA simulators and learn how to walk on the moon and how to work without gravity. Finally, they blast off on a mission of their own.



### **The Constellations: Stars and Stories**

By Chris Sasaki. (2003, Sterling Publishing Co)

Recounts the stories behind 88 constellations easily identifiable in the clear night sky. Color visuals are accompanied by facts on how far stars really are, other interstellar phenomena, the history of every constellation and how they got their names, and the best way to search for stars.

### **Count to a Million**

By Jerry Pallotta; illustrated by Ray Bolster. (2003, Scholastic Inc.)

"If you can count to ten, you can count to one million. Welcome to the decimal system." With these words on an opening page that pictures Earth in space, this book clearly presents and illustrates counting by the power of ten to reach 1,000,000.

### **Is a Blue Whale the Biggest Thing There Is?**

By Robert E. Wells. (1993, Albert Whitman & Company)

With this book children think about some big things (like a blue whale), some bigger things (like Earth), and the biggest thing there is: the universe.

### **Night Sky (National Audubon Society First Field Guide)**

By Gary Mechler. (1999, Scholastic Reference)

Designed to help novices look at the night sky the way an astronomer does. The book is divided into four parts: What is Astronomy?, How to Look at the Sky, field guide, and reference. Includes descriptions of objects in our solar system as well as numerous star maps.

### **One Small Square: The Night Sky**

By Donald M. Silver; illustrated by Patricia J. Wynne. (1998, McGraw-Hill)

Focuses on "one small square" of night sky around the constellation Orion. Discusses the stars' colors, the Great Orion Nebula, the Milky Way galaxy, planets, comets, and the moon.

### **The Sky is Full of Stars (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science, 2)**

By Franklyn M. Branley; illustrated by Felicia Bond. (1983, HarperCollins Publishers)

Appropriate for independent readers or as a read-aloud book. Provides good illustrations and directions for finding constellations. Emphasizes that stars appear to move across the sky at night, and that at different times of year you will see different stars.



### **Stars**

By Seymour Simon. (2006, Collins)

In clear text and with over 20 full-color photographs, this book describes many varieties of stars, from red giants to white dwarfs, from the enormous explosions known as supernovas to tiny, extremely dense neutron stars. It also discusses nebulas, black holes, pulsars, and quasars.

### **The Storytelling Star: Tales of the Sun, Moon, and Stars**

By James Riordan; illustrated by Amanda Hall. (1999, Anova Books)

A collection of myths and legends from ancient cultures around the world, including the Incas, Aztecs, Ancient Greeks, Chinese, and Native Americans. This book was particularly popular with the children of the Science Companion authors who were asked to read a handful of books about the solar system.