



SEARCH FOR THE STARS



AIM

To get the children outside exploring the world around them and looking up to the sky as they hunt for stars, planets, shooting stars and even the Man on the Moon.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 'My Stargazing Adventure' Worksheet
- Access to a stargazing app on mobile/tablet device
- An outdoor area
- A clear night



GET ADVENTUROUS: SEARCH FOR THE STARS

THEME: EXPLORING THE WORLD AROUND ME



LEADER PREPARATION

Before this activity it would be ideal to download a free stargazing app, such as 'SkyView Lite' onto your phone / other leaders' phones, to help you. Spend some time before you lead the session, looking at the sky and finding the stars / constellations yourself. You will need to do this on a clear night, so check the weather forecast in advance and make sure you have an alternative activity in case of cloudy skies.



GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

Find a suitable area for your group to do their stargazing. If you can, lay out some blankets for your children to sit or lay down on. Spend time letting your group find as many stars as they can and work through their worksheet.



Download 'Stargazing Adventure' worksheet

Find the Moon - What shape is it tonight? Can your group see any of its craters? Can they see the man who lives on the moon? Give him a wave!

Spot the North Star - The north star has helped guide people all over the world. Can you find one of the brightest stars in the sky?

Explore Star Constellations - Can you find the Plough and Ursa Minor from the worksheets? Using the stargazing app, what other constellations can be found?

Hunt for Planets - If you look really carefully, you may be able to see one or two planets. Use the stargazing app to find them.

Wish Upon a Shooting Star - Finding shooting stars is really hard. Can your group find any?



DID YOU KNOW?

- Looking up at the sky we may only be able to see hundreds or thousands of stars, but there are billions (there are an estimated 400 billion stars in the galaxy).
- The Sun is the nearest star to Earth (146 million Km).
- The Sun looks yellow to us here on earth, but in space it's actually white.
- The bigger the star, the shorter its life – with smaller stars surviving for billions of years.



IDEAS TO TAKE THIS FURTHER...

Head back inside, warm up with a hot chocolate and let your group create their own star constellations using a piece of card and star stickers. Join up the stars with a pen to create their own shapes in the sky.



KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

Make sure your children are wrapped up warm and the space you are stargazing in is safe and suitable for this activity.