

The sky at night

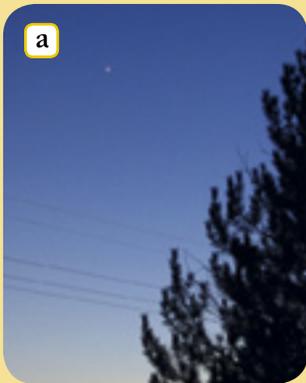
The best time to observe the stars is on a dark, clear night. You will see more in the countryside, away from the hazy glow of city lights. Binoculars or a telescope will help you observe distant objects more clearly, but even with the naked eye you can still see constellations, bright stars and planets, and the Moon.



It takes about 20 minutes for your eyes to get used to darkness. Then, fainter objects in the sky will become visible.

Watching the night sky

These pictures show some things that you can see in the night sky. Read each caption, then write the letter of the picture it describes in the box.



1. With binoculars, you can see craters on the surface of the Moon.

2. The Milky Way looks like a band of dust sprinkled across the sky.

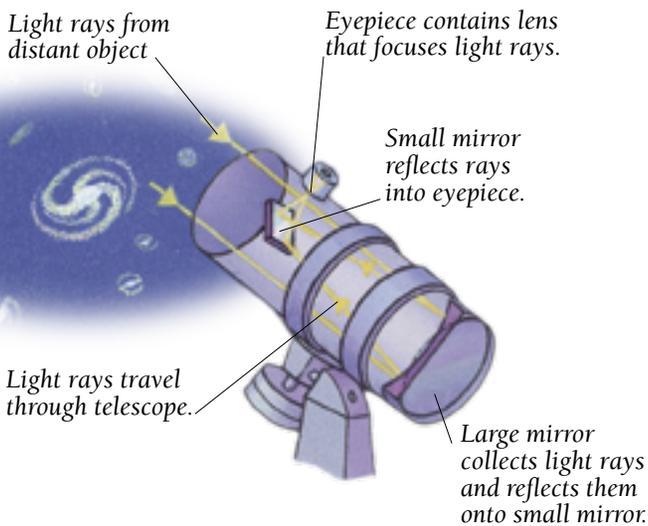
3. Nicknamed the evening star, the planet Venus can often be seen in the early evening, or just after dawn.

4. On a clear night, you may see a shooting star every 15 minutes or so. It looks like a long streak of light.



How a telescope works

Look carefully at this diagram of a reflecting telescope, then fill in the missing words to complete the facts. Choose from:



mirrors lens reflects light rays eyepiece

1. Most astronomical telescopes are reflecting telescopes, which use.....to reflect light.
2. A large, curved mirror at the bottom of the tube gathers.....from distant objects and reflects them back up the body of the telescope.
3. A smaller, flat mirror.....the light rays onto an eyepiece at the side of the tube.
4. The image that the astronomer sees through theis upside down.
5. A small.....in the eyepiece magnifies the image.

Activity Answers

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Watching the night sky

1 b

2 c

3 a

4 d

How a telescope works

1 mirrors

2 light rays

3 reflects

4 eye piece

5 lens