

Introduction to the Planisphere

LP _____ Date _____

Objectives:

- Students will be able to use a planisphere to locate stars and constellations for any date and time of the year.
- To understand how the night sky changes through the seasons.



Analysis:

1. What is a horizon? Find the horizon on the planisphere. _____

2. Find 9 pm for today's date on your planisphere. Rotate the planisphere until today's date and 9 pm are lined up. Find North, South, East and West. Name a constellation on the Northern horizon _____. Eastern Horizon _____. Southern horizon _____. And Western Horizon _____.
3. Where is your Zenith? _____ What constellation is at your Zenith tonight at 9 pm? _____
4. Find the center of your planisphere, what constellation is the metal clip going through? _____ What is the name of the star? _____
5. Rotate your planisphere so that stars travel from East to West. Name 5 constellations that do not go below the horizon. These are known as circumpolar constellations:
_____, _____, _____,
_____, and _____.
6. When is your birthday? _____ Line up 9 pm with your birth date.
Find a constellation that is rising in the East _____
Find a constellation that is setting in the West _____
Find a constellation that is in the southern sky _____
Find a constellation that is at your zenith _____
7. Locate Orion on the planisphere. What time will it rise tonight? _____ When will it be in the southern sky? _____ When will it set tonight? _____

Conclusion: 2 –3 sentences on what you learned. _____

