

Read About Patterns in the Sky

DEFINITION OF PATTERN

A pattern is something that repeats. It happens the same way more than once. Patterns can be made of numbers, shapes or even events that happen in nature. By knowing patterns we can predict what will happen next.

To better understand how patterns in the sky work...

LET'S BREAK IT DOWN!

Patterns in the Sky

The sun, moon and stars all follow the same pattern. They rise in one part of the sky, move across it and set on the other side. This pattern repeats once each day.



The Sun is Always Shining

The sun is always shining, even at night when we cannot see it. The sun follows the same pattern as the moon; it appears to rise in the east and set in the west.

The Moon is Always There

The moon can be seen at night, and sometimes during the day. The moon follows the same pattern as the sun; it appears to rise in the east and set in the west.



The Stars Shine Brightly

The stars are always shining, but most of them can only be seen at night. Stars appear to follow the same pattern as the sun and moon, moving slowly across the sky.

Telescopes Magnify Things That Are Far Away

A telescope can be used to magnify things. They help us observe stars which look very small to us on Earth because they are so far away.



PATTERNS IN THE SKY VOCABULARY

Pattern

Something that happens the same way more than once; it repeats.

Sun

The bright object that lights up our daytime sky.

Moon

The large round object in the night sky that is sometimes visible during the day.

Stars

Most stars look like tiny dots of light in the night sky. They look that way because they are very far away. If you were close to them, it would look like a giant ball of burning gas.

Position

The place where something is.

Predict

To guess that something might happen in the future.

PATTERNS IN THE SKY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What pattern do you notice about day and night?

It is daytime when the sun is up. When the sun sets, it is nighttime. This pattern repeats every day.

How does observing a pattern help us?

Observing a pattern helps us predict what may happen next.

What is different about the sun from day to night?

The sun is only visible during the day. The sun is still shining at night, even though we can't see it from where we are.

What happens to your shadow when the sun moves across the sky?

As the sun moves across the sky, your shadow will move too. Your shadow can change in length, shape and position.

What is one thing a telescope is used for?

A telescope can be used to magnify things that are far away, such as stars and planets.

What do you notice about the size of objects in the sky?

Things that are closer to Earth look big, like the moon. Stars look very small because they are very far away.
