



LET'S LOOK UP!

OBSERVING THE SKY

Use this guide as a starting point, but there's so much more to see and do at Adler! Don't forget to take time and space to explore what interests you and your group.

Groups with early readers: Much of this guide helps adults have conversations with their groups. Read each prompt to the group and encourage them to draw their responses in the appropriate section.

Where do you want to start your visit?

- UPPER LEVEL, start on *page 2*
- LOWER LEVEL, start on *page 5*

UPPER LEVEL



PLANET EXPLORERS

#4 on the map

*This space is for Pre-K through third graders.
If your group is older, please head to the next exhibit.*

As you enter, you will be in the Home section.

Choose a book from the basket to read together!



Imagine you are an astronaut.

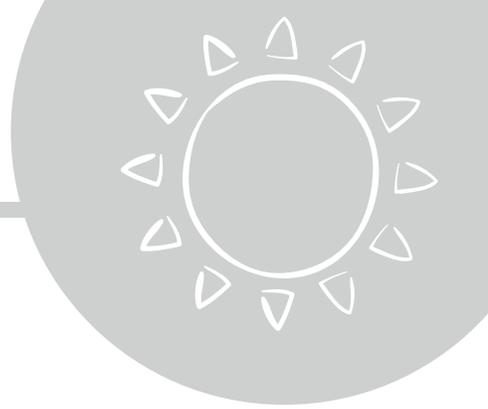
How would the Sun, Moon, stars, look different if you were in space? Try the spacewalk to see! Note: the spacewalk is dark. Please walk carefully! Can you see that many stars from home? Why not?

When you move to the next area, you'll find yourself in the backyard. Lie down under the stars and look up! What do you see in this nighttime sky? Have you ever seen stars like this? **Share your stargazing stories with your group.** You can write or draw about them here too.

UPPER LEVEL

OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

#3 on the map



Look for the rotating Earth. Choose a person from your group to be the Sun and point to Chicago on Earth. As the Earth rotates, decide with your group what time of day it is! Remember, it is daytime for the part of the Earth facing the Sun, and nighttime for the part facing away.

By the windows, find the solar system stands. Start at the Sun and walk, stopping at each planet, until you reach Pluto.

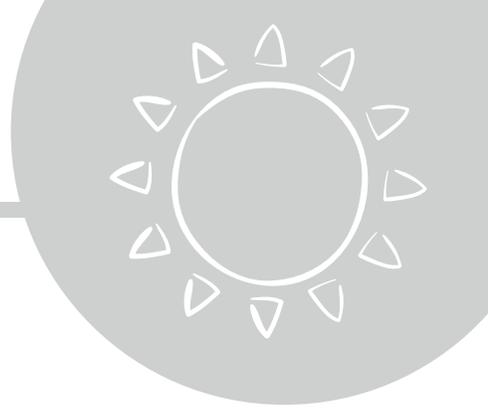
Which planets do you think we can observe in our night sky?

Draw them here:

Can you find our Moon?

Sketch what you see. While you're sketching, talk with your group: Does the Moon look like this from your home? How is it different? How is it the same?

UPPER LEVEL



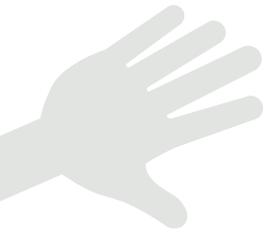
OUR SOLAR SYSTEM (cont.)

#3 on the map

There is a real piece of the Moon that you can touch! Before you find it, make a prediction: **what color do you think it will be?**

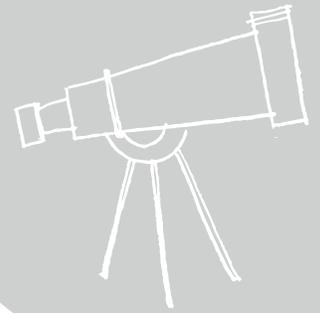


Touch the Moon! It is near the Earth station. What does it look like? How does it feel? Write or draw about it:



While you explore the planets, can you find the one star in our solar system that we can only see during the day? We'll give you a hint: it's big and yellow!
Draw a picture of how the Sun looks different from the other stars we see at night!

LOWER LEVEL



TELESCOPES: THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

#13 on the map

Walk through the arch, then enter the cave on your right. Explore the images inside. Look up. Watch the sunlight move. What does it look like when the Sun is shining straight into the hole at the top? What time of day would that happen? Talk with your group to decide.

Continue onto Early Telescopes

Telescopes help us see objects in space that are very far away. Look through one of the two telescopes and draw what you see! Hint: you may need to move your eye around a bit to find the right spot for you.

Try it! Make an O-shape with each hand and stack them so that you can see through your hands! Look through the hole and look up! Can you see as easily through your hands as you can with the telescope from earlier? Why or why not? What makes telescopes a good tool to see things that are far away?

LOWER LEVEL

ASTRONOMY IN CULTURE #6 on the map

Objects like the Sun, Moon, and stars move across the sky in patterns. In this exhibit, you can learn how different cultures tracked objects in the sky.

Try using the large astrolabe in the center of the exhibit to find the star **Arcturus** on the wall.



Before we had clocks, people used sundials to tell time. **Try the hand sundial.** What time does the sundial say it is?

Find a sundial you would like to carry in your pocket. **Talk to your group about why you picked it.**



Can you use the big sundial? Put the Sun as close to today's date as you can and move the Sun across the sky until the sundial matches what time it is right now. **Draw what you see below.**

LOWER LEVEL

CHICAGO'S NIGHT SKY

#8 on the map

A constellation is a group of stars that formed a picture in a stargazer's imagination. Try Create a Constellation to make one of your own!

Draw your constellation here:



Chicago creates a lot of light that can make it hard to see the stars! Look at the map on the floor—can you find the Adler Planetarium? Hint: it is on Lake Michigan. Is there a lot of light around the Adler? Do you think we can see a lot of stars from here at night?

Take a selfie with your group!

