



The Night Sky

by Felix James

Overview

Use this book to help children learn about the objects they see in the night sky.

Literacy Focus *Word Count: 120 words*

High Frequency Words

big, can, I, like, look, my, see

Content Words

night, sky, stars, light, fire, moon, morning, tonight

Decoding Skills

- **Initial Consonant Blends:**
cl, st (close, stars, still)
- **Initial Consonant Digraphs:**
th (things, thin)

- **Long Vowel Sounds: i**
(night, light, tiny, like, fire, sometimes, tonight)

- **Vowel Digraphs: oo** *(look, moon)*

- **Contractions:** *can't (cannot)*

Comprehension/ Thinking Skills

- Relating to personal experience
- Retelling simple expository passages

Writing/Speaking and Listening

- Writing facts about the stars and the moon
- Describing what is seen in the night sky
- Answering questions about the text

Observe/Assess

See Using Retellings in the Assessment Handbook.

Science Focus

Content and Thinking Skills

- Naming the moon and stars as objects in the night sky
- Understanding that stars look small because they are far away
- Learning that the moon's appearance changes, but its shape does not

Background Information

This text invites children to learn about the moon and the stars, some of the easily observable objects in the solar system. Even though children are familiar with the changes in the sky from day to night, they may not have noticed that the shape of the moon appears to change over time. Most children can

recognize a star, but they may not be aware of the large size and composition of the stars.

Correlation to National Standards

Earth Science

- Objects in the Sky
- Changes in the Earth and Sky

See Standards Chart on page 204.

Literacy Focus

Set the Scene

Ask children to think about the things they can see in the sky at night. List responses on a class chart. Ask:

What shape is the moon?

Does the shape seem to change?

What do stars look like?

Read and Discuss

Cover and Title Page

Focus on the title. Ask:

What is the difference between the sky at night and the sky during the day?

Read the text, and then ask the following questions after each section of the book.

Pages 2-7

What do stars look like?

What would stars look like up close?

Mention that the sun is also a star.

Pages 8-11

What shape is the moon?

Do we see this shape all of the time?

Page 12

Do we see stars during the day?

Can we ever see the moon during the day?

Respond

- The words *night* and *light* have a long *i* sound. Ask children to name words that rhyme with them. Help children find other long *i* words with different spellings.
- Display the following words: *things, thin, close, stars, still*. Ask children to identify other words that begin with these digraphs or blends.
- Read sentences from the book omitting one word. Ask children to fill in the missing word.

The _____ is dark at night.
Stars look like tiny dots of _____.
A star is a giant _____ of fire.



Contractions

Activity Master, page 156

Ask children to find the contraction *can't* in the book. Explain that it has been shortened from the word *cannot*. Then help children write other familiar contractions on the Activity Master, page 156.



Meeting Individual Needs

For specific teaching strategies for meeting individual needs, see pages 198–203.

Science Focus

Science Concept

The moon and stars are observable objects in the night sky. The appearance of these objects changes over time.

Activities

Phases of the Moon

Use a calendar with the moon phases displayed on it. Encourage children to look at the sky each night to observe how the moon changes its appearance over a month. Children can draw what they see at each phase.

Night and Day

Invite children to draw pictures of the night sky and the day sky. Compare the objects that children draw in each picture.

Other Night Objects

Discuss other objects that can be seen at night (planets, comets). If children are interested in these subjects, you may want to read other books to children to explore the topics further.

Research

Help children use resources to find more information about stars or planets. Invite children to report their findings about the solar system.



Things We See at Night

Activity Master, page 157

Have children write facts about the moon and the stars on the Activity Master, page 157.

Name _____

The Night Sky

Write the contractions. Use the Word Bank.

Word Bank

they'll

can't

don't

couldn't

he'll

do not

cannot

could not

they will

he will

Write a sentence about the night sky. Use a contraction.

Name _____

The Night Sky

Write a fact about the moon and stars.



Stars _____

The moon _____
