



Year 5/6 Day Tour Activities

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🔭 Indicates that a telescope is seen or involved

U1. Spinning Around

The students see the (very large) piece of a meteorite in the Observatory Museum, with a discussion covering the history of the meteorite and the most common origins of meteorites. They then do activities that demonstrate moon phases and eclipses.

U2. Solar Walk

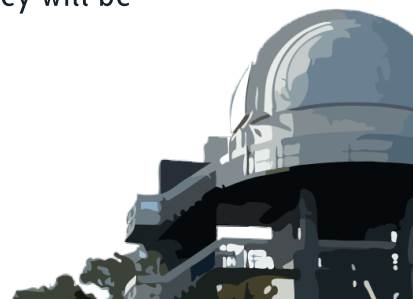
This walk demonstrates the distances between the planets using a scale model with facts about the planets presented as they walk. They then try to fit carded information to the right planet discussing specific aspects of some planets.

U3. Solar Rings

The students use team work to initially sort the planets into order on our solar rings diagram and then work out which orbital times belong to which planet. Students try to work out how old they would be on some of the planets based on the length of the planets' orbits and then have an opportunity to see how old they would be on each of the planets. They then engage in an activity which looks at the sizes of the planets and are given a mnemonic to remember the size order.

U4. Lowell Telescope 2 📡

This was the main research telescope at the observatory. Students will learn about some aspects of astronomical research and how the telescope works. They will be involved in an investigation relating to gravity





U5. Photographing Stars 📡

This activity uses an historical telescope to show the ways that astrophotographs used to be taken. It discusses at the way it was used for asteroid and comet tracking using a blink comparator.

U6. Seeing the Sun 📡

Students get the opportunity to look at the sun in real time safely in two different ways. The first is using Sunspotters. The students use these instruments to project an image of the sun indirectly onto a piece of white paper. At no stage does the student look at the sun. The second is using a dedicated solar telescope with inbuilt solar filters and students look through the telescope at the sun. At all times there is an emphasis on safely looking at the sun and student are instructed to never look at the sun through any other telescope. They then engage in a discussion explaining some of the sun's activities.

U7. Solar Scope

Weather permitting, the students will be able to learn about and read the observatory's sundial. They will then move to our Solar viewing dome, where a telescope trained on the Sun transmits mono real time images via a camera to a computer screen. They will be given some information about the Coronado (Solar) Telescope and discuss aspects of and the structure of our Sun.

U8. Survival on the Moon

Students learn a bit more about the moon and do a NASA designed activity to see if they and their friends would survive a crash on the moon.

U11. Telescope Tour 📡

This gives the students an opportunity to look at two or three of the Observatory's old and more modern telescopes and learn a little bit about their history and what they were used for. This is a useful addition if you would like the students to leave having seen some telescopes, but your choices do not include any.

