

Journey Onward



Charting the Stars

Grades: 4 - 8

Star charts are known as *planispheres* because they represent a spherical sky on a flat paper plane. In this hands-on/minds-on program, students make and learn how to use a star chart to help them locate constellations visible in Hawai`i's night sky at any time of the year. They will also gain an understanding of the pattern of predictable changes in the night sky throughout the year.

Outcomes

- Students learn that constellations remain fixed in their relative positions to each other.
- Students understand that constellations appear in the night sky at different times due to the earth's daily rotation and seasonal orbit around the sun.
- Students construct and learn to use a star chart with which they can make further observations of the night sky.

HCPS III Benchmarks

SC.4.8.3: Describe the relationship between the sun and the Earth's daily rotation and annual revolution.

SC.5.2.1: Use models and/or simulations to represent and investigate features of objects, events, and processes in the real world.