

# THE UNIVERSE

*Builder Level*

## Purpose

To appreciate God's majesty and greatness as creator and reflect on our place in the Universe.

## Exploring

Have you ever been outside on a moon-less, clear evening away from the city lights and looked into the starry sky and wondered how many stars there are, how big the universe is, how God made it, where you fit into all this?

1. Read Psalm 8 which is a poem, written by a star gazer many, many years ago. What questions did this man have about the universe and man's place in it?

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What answers did he find to his questions?

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2. Our universe consists of many different things from tiny meteors to mighty galaxies. Although man knows a lot about the universe, much of it is still unexplained and unexplored. Make a list of as many things you can think of that makes up our universe (Use an encyclopedia or science book if you like).

3. Give a brief description of the following phenomena:

Constellation.....

Black Hole .....

Asteroid .....

Comet.....

4. List the planets in our solar system in order starting with the closest to the Sun.

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How big is our Solar System .....

How far away from the earth is the nearest galaxy .....

What is the name of the nearest galaxy.....

5. People have always wondered how the Universe came into being. Using an encyclopedia or science book find two explanations for the origins of the Universe.

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Now read Isaiah 40: 12-26.

What does Isaiah say about the origin of the Universe?

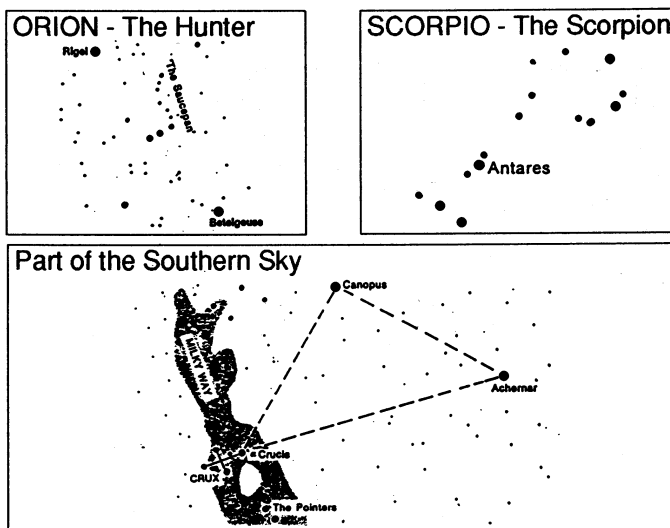
Where do people like you and me fit in?

Does the same mighty God who made the Universe really care for you?

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## Doing

1. In our Southern Sky you can see many constellations of stars, the most well known being Crux (or the Southern Cross); others are: **Scorpius, Centaurus, Carina, Orion.** Find a constellation map and locate three constellations in the sky and also the three bright stars **Crucis, Achernar** and **Canopus**.



2. Do two of the following projects:
- a. **Tin Can Constellation Maps.** Collect four empty tins (Soft drink type with pull tab opening). From a constellation map copy four constellations on tracing paper (e.g. Crux, Centaurus, Scorpius, Carina, Vela, Phoenix). Place them upside down on bottom of cans and punch holes for individual stars. Draw a line to connect the stars and label each can with the constellation. Note: Traced copy should be size of can bottom. Look through peep hole and the stars will appear to twinkle. Memorise the names of the constellation and recognise them by looking through the peep hole.

b. Make a chart (or three dimensional model) of our solar system. add a description of each planet and indicate extent of space exploration.

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c. Visit an observatory or planetarium and report to the rest of your club about:

- Where you went .....
- What you saw and learnt .....

d. Visit someone with a telescope who is interested in astronomy. Ask them about the Southern sky and ask them to show you how to use the telescope and observe the sky.

**Reflection**

Read Psalm 19 1-6 and reflect on the words.  
What do you think the universe tells us about God?

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What doesn't it tell us?

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Where do you fit into the universe and everything that God has made?

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Ask your Counsellor to sign below and arrange for the presentation of your badge.

..... date .....