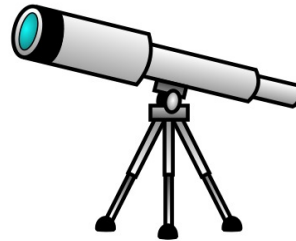


Inquiry STEMs from Mystery!

65 Short Mysteries You Solve with Science...



Stars in Their Eyes

Mr. Sakura was known for giving a lot of homework, and a lot of it was very tough. He also was known for having a sense of humor.

His assignment to the class was this: “Over the next week, at a time of your choosing, identify the star that looks the largest in the sky.”

The day they turned in their answers, a group of friends gathered outside after school and talked about what they did.

“I used binoculars, but even then, no one star seemed bigger than any of the others,” Xavier said. “So I just picked the North Star. I don’t know if it’s the biggest, but at least it’s easy to find.”

“I did some research on the Internet and found that Vega is a really bright star,” Paul said. “I managed to find it one night. But I couldn’t tell if it’s the biggest star in the sky or not.”

Bradley said, “I used a telescope when I was a little kid and looked at the constellation Orion – you know, the one that is supposed to look like a hunter wearing a belt. I picked one of the belt stars, Mintaka. I tried to measure it against the other ones. It looked a little bigger, but I don’t really know.”

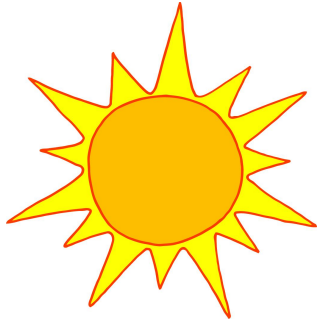
“That’s what you guys get for not looking closely enough,” Nicholas said. “How could you miss it?”



Mystery No. 20 (page 57) from
One Minute Mysteries: 65 Short Mysteries You Solve With Science!

Inquiry STEMs from Mystery!

Answer to...



Stars in Their Eyes

“But we looked at the stars as closely as we could, without going to an observatory,” Bradley said.

“You didn’t look closely enough at the instructions,” Nicholas said.

“Remember, the instruction sheet said you could pick a star you see at any time you chose. It didn’t say you had to pick a star at night. The star that looks the largest in the sky is right there,” he said, pointing to the Sun. “The Sun is the only star in our solar system. It is the closest star to Earth and that’s why it looks the biggest, but it turns out it is about average in size among all stars.”

Answer to Mystery No. 20 (page 58) from
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