

## About The Universe

To begin learning about the universe, you just need to look up at the night sky. That's how astronomy began. Sure, the astronomers have school-bus-sized instruments hundreds of miles above the Earth. But they are simply better tools to do what you can see with just your eyes.

How much you can see depends on where you are. In the city or suburbs at night, the street lights around you flood the night sky with light which overwhelm most stars. But you can still see the moon, a few bright stars, and some nearby planets.

If you get away from the city lights, you'll be stunned by the millions of bright pin points of light you will see. You can use constellations to find your way around the sky - here's a way to make yourself a constellation finder. Using binoculars or a telescope, you can see that some of these bright lights are not just stars: others are planets, and still others are entirely separate galaxies.

A great way to get started learning about the universe is to join an astronomy club. You can find a list at the Night Sky Network. Astronomy clubs have star parties where experienced observers will give you a chance to look through their telescopes.

Want to know the best part about astronomy? You have a great excuse to stay up past bedtime! During the daytime, you can visit the games and activities listed below to explore the cosmic circus.