



GET INTO ASTRONOMY

We can enrich our backyard observing and learn much more at astronomy club meetings and star parties. Canadian ones are listed on the website.

Experienced astronomers are happy to give advice on telescope purchases and taking pictures.



THE PLANETS

We can easily see Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and Mars. They are not on the Star Finder because they move slowly compared to distant stars, which is shown on the Star Finder. Current planet locations are on the website.



OBSERVING LISTS

The sky has many interesting double stars, star clusters, glowing nebulae and galaxies. The circles on the Star Finder show some objects visible in binoculars. The website has details as well as observing lists to challenge skills.

find out more at
www.star-finder.ca



Wow!

CELESTIAL SPECIAL EVENTS

Some events are predictable each year, meteor showers on the same date (see centre photo), and the return of known comets. Unpredictable events include aurora, supernovae, and unknown comets. The website has more info.

THE MILKY WAY

Unfortunately light pollution prevents many of us from seeing the Milky Way glow shown on the Star Finder.

Through a telescope or binoculars, we see a band of many stars - evidence we are in a flat galaxy made of billions of stars.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH GROUPS

Like this Star Finder? The website has a version which can be printed out and assembled. The website also has a list of Canadian centres and astronomy clubs. Someone might be able to come and talk about astronomy.



Initial design
courtesy of
National Research
Council Canada



Instructions (2)

Turn the round star map so the date matches the time you are observing.

The time shown is standard (winter) time. For daylight (summer), subtract savings time one hour, so at 9PM turn the star map to 8PM.

The Star Finder is designed for latitude 45°. If you live much further north, the patterns in the sky are similar, but fewer southern stars are visible.

A Project of
The Royal
Astronomical
Society of Canada



Instructions (1)

Fold the flaps back along the solid crease lines - bottom first then the side ones.

It is a good idea to tape the flaps.

Put the round star map into the holder with the blue side facing the front.

More information is on the back including under the flaps.



The oval area shows the entire visible sky. Overhead stars are in the centre of the oval. Stars near the horizon are close to the edge. To identify stars, hold the Star Finder in front of you so the label for the horizon you are facing is at the bottom. If you are not sure of the direction, try to find the Big Dipper which is usually North.

Instructions (3)

LIGHT POLLUTION

Why can't most of us see the brilliant starry skies enjoyed in rural areas?



Glare from neighbours' lights can prevent our eyes from adapting to the dark.

The upward light reflects off the air, making the sky glow.

See www.star-finder.ca for information on how to fight light pollution.

Credits for Star Finder Project

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Photographs

- Cover sunset image: Ron Macnaughton, processed by Gord Rife
- Milky Way: Les Dempsey (RASC Belleville Centre)
- Lunar Eclipse: Ron Macnaughton
- Comparison light pollution photos: Alan Dyer and Ron Macnaughton

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