



Follow the Drinking Gourd

Post-visit Packet

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Summary

Now that you've seen the program you may be wondering what to do next. We're here to help. In the following pages we've provided some samples of vocabulary, possible questions and discussion topics as well as some activities that could be done in the classroom or at home. These are simply suggestions and we encourage you to modify this packet to suit your particular needs.

Concepts covered in show:

1. Daytime Sky

The daytime sky is introduced. The color of the sky is revealed and students are presented with a typical daytime sky. This includes how the sky changes with the weather.

2. Constellations

Constellations are introduced and defined. Students look at several constellations and then are directed to look for the big dipper. They learn that the Big Dipper was a very important constellation for a group of people called slaves. Slavery is described and escape to the North is introduced.

3. Follow the Drinking Gourd

The song Follow the Drinking Gourd is introduced as song sung by slaves. The slaves called the Big Dipper the Drinking Gourd. This song explains how to use the Big Dipper to find north. The students are led through the song phrase by phrase and are taught what each phrase signifies.

4. Peg Leg Joe

The story of Peg Leg Joe and how he helps slave families is told. Then the story of one particular family and their flight to freedom is told. The Underground Railroad is introduced as a vital resource in their escape to the North.

Name _____

Date _____

Vocabulary

1. The Sun

2. Constellation

3. Big Dipper

4. Slave

5. Drinking Gourd

6. Underground Railroad

Vocabulary-Key

1. **The Sun-** The star nearest the Earth. Shines during the daytime sky and provides the Earth with the light and energy it needs.
2. **Constellation-** group of stars that seem to form a shape; sometimes human shapes or animals. 88 official constellations make up a map of the night sky.
3. **Big Dipper-** a very important constellation in the northern sky. The slaves called it the drinking gourd and used it to find their way north to freedom.
4. **Slave-** someone who belongs to a master. Black children who lived in the South two hundred years ago were slaves.
5. **Drinking Gourd-** a gourd that can be made into a cup. Slaves called the big dipper the Drinking Gourd and used it to find their way north to freedom.
6. **Underground Railroad-** A path of house stretching like a train on a path to Canada. The places that slaves hid while escaping north.

Name _____

Date _____

Short Answer and Discussion Questions

1. Can you see more stars out in the country or in the city? Why?
2. What is a constellation? Give an example.
3. What did the slaves see when they looked at the Big Dipper?
4. Why did slaves sing the song "Follow the Drinking Gourd?"
5. What is the Underground Railroad?

Short Answer and Discussion Questions - Key

1. Can you see more stars out in the country or in the city? Why?

You can see more stars in the country. That is because the extra lights of the city make it hard to see the dimmer stars. This effect is called light pollution.

2. What is a constellation? Give an example.

A constellation is a group of stars that together form a picture. There are 88 official constellations that make up a map of the sky. Examples may include but are not limited to: Orion, Taurus, Canis Major, and The Big Dipper.

3. What did the slaves see when they looked at the Big Dipper?

The slaves saw a Drinking Gourd, which is a gourd hollowed out to be used as a cup or dipper.

4. Why did slaves sing the song "Follow the Drinking Gourd?"

The words of the song explained when and how to plan their escape to north and to freedom.

5. What is the Underground Railroad?

It is a path of houses stretching like a train on a path to Canada. These were the places that slaves hid while escaping north.

Classroom Activity

Mrs. Witherspoon's Constellations Crawl

We see different constellations during the year because the Earth orbits the Sun, pointing us toward different directions in space.

To see how this works, simply imagine the four walls in a room as four different directions in space. Next, mark these walls with four different constellation signs. Make signs for:

Wall #1: Orion the Hunter

Wall #2: Leo the Lion

Wall #3: Scorpius the Scorpion

Wall #4: Pegasus the Flying Horse

You can write the constellation names, draw pictures of the characters or make a chart of the stars in that constellation. Be creative!

Now, make the Earth and the Sun. Find a lamp and place it in the center of the room. Make sure it shines in all four directions, and you have your very own Sun. For the Earth, that's easy – let your head be the Earth.

To start your constellation crawl, stand between the sun and wall #1 and face the stars of Orion. This is where the Earth is during winter. Notice, the Earth's night side (your face) points to Orion and we see it best in our night sky. Next, make your Earth orbit so it's between the Sun and wall #2 and you're facing the stars of Leo. Now it's spring! And that is the best time to catch Leo the Lion in the night sky. Now, orbit to wall #3 and face the stars of Scorpius. When we see the Scorpion, it means summer has arrived. And finally, fall returns when you move to wall #4 and face the stars of Pegasus the Flying Horse.

Special thanks to the following resource:
Minneapolis Planetarium Amazing Stargazing Activity Book

Name _____

Date _____

Classroom Activity

Find each of the following words.

CONSTELLATION	CANADA	SLAVE	DRINKING GOURD
ESCAPE	BIG DIPPER	MASTER	
FREEDOM	PEG LEG JOE	RIVER	

E A E R J A F A A E N E A J G A L K A P E P
 I P E L D R I N K I N G G O U R D N S R A
 E N E A G S C O N S T E L L A T I O N N I E L
 E D L G O D G I E R P C E C N E V U P E
 V I G D R D R F V U G O E F E E N M E I
 N I O I S L V E R J D G L R G R C A L P A
 O I E L T S E E P E I T A E P E P C I E A I N
 P O E C A R E G C P V N D E S C A P E O E S L
 P P A E D A A T I I G I A S E P E A G L E
 R N S O I D T E J O D E S L A V E G E S I A
 R E M M A A E V E E O N C L I A N I G D E N
 D R R N R M K P R B E V G E E O I E M R A
 S R D A A O D E N G E I E T I S D T R E V A R
 N D C D E A A D R E T T V A E B E S E A A K T
 A A C T A I O O S D D P S V E A D S M A I E E
 A R V F E J E R C D E S A S R N B A P O A
 O G L D O A F B E O A S K R M C O E E A A
 G D A T N S P I E L E L D D V C B R E I T I O

Special Thanks to edHelper.com for this puzzle

Name _____

Date _____

Classroom Activity-Key

CONSTELLATION
BIG DIPPER
RIVER

ESCAPE
PEG LEG JOE
DRINKING GOURD

FREEDOM
SLAVE

CANADA
MASTER

P D R I N K I N G G O U R D R
E C O N S T E L L A T I O N I
G V
R F E
L E R R
E E P
E G P E S C A P E
D A I
O D J D S L A V E
M A O
N R E G
A E I
C T B
S
A
M

Special Thanks to edHelper.com for this puzzle

Classroom Activity

Sing-Along

Have the students sing along to the song Follow the Drinking Gourd. Then have a class discussion about how the slaves used this song to escape to freedom. Encourage them to go out on the next clear night and see if they can find the Drinking Gourd.

Follow the Drinking Gourd

When the Sun comes back, and the first quail calls,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
For the old man is awaiting for to carry you to freedom
If you follow the Drinking Gourd.

Follow the Drinking Gourd.
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
For the old man is awaiting for to carry you to freedom
If you follow the Drinking Gourd.

The river bank makes a very good road,
The dead trees will show you the way.
Left foot, peg foot, traveling on
Follow the Drinking Gourd.

Follow the Drinking Gourd.
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
For the old man is awaiting for to carry you to freedom
If you follow the Drinking Gourd

The river ends between two hills,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
There's another river on the other side,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.

Follow the Drinking Gourd.
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
For the old man is awaiting for to carry you to freedom
If you follow the Drinking Gourd

Where the great big river meets the little river,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
For the old man is awaiting for to carry you to freedom,
If you follow the Drinking Gourd.

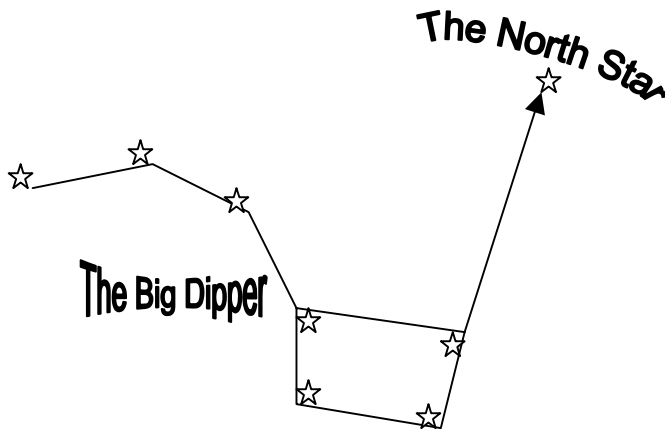
Classroom Activity

Follow the Big Dipper

This is an extended classroom/take-home activity that allows the students to chart the changes of the Big Dipper throughout the course of a year. For the younger students this activity may require the help of their parents.

What to do:

Have the students find the big dipper and North Star using the skill they learned in the planetarium. First find the Big Dipper. Then go through the handle to the last two stars of the dippers bowl. These are the pointer stars. Draw a line from the bottom star through the top star and stretch it out until you hit a fairly bright star in the sky. That's the North Star. See diagram below.



Have the students make their own drawings from the real night-time sky. Include the North Star for orientation. Repeat this observation every few months and watch the Big Dipper rotate around the North Star. Explain that the Big Dipper and North Star aren't really moving at all. The Earth is rotating underneath the stars and that's why they appear to move.

Name _____

Date _____

Recommended Astronomy Web Sites

After seeing a program you may be interested in finding out more about a particular subject. These are some of our favorite websites.

Misc

Ritter Planetarium-Brooks Observatory

www.rpbo.utoledo.edu

Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence Inst.

www.seti.org

SETI@home

setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu

Space.com

www.space.com

Space Ref

www.spaceref.com

Heavens Above (Satellite Tracking)

www.heavens-above.com

Education

Windows to the Universe

windows.arc.nasa.gov

Bad Astronomy

www.badastronomy.com

The Nine Planets

seds.lpl.arizona.edu/nineplanets/nineplanets

NASA

NASA Homepage

www.nasa.gov

NASA Human Space Flight

www.spaceflight.nasa.gov

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

www.jpl.nasa.gov

Space Telescope Science Institute (Hubble)

www.stsci.edu

Telescopes

Meade

www.meade.com

Celestron

www.celestron.com

Orion

www.telescope.com

Astromart

www.astromart.com

Magazines

Sky and Telescope

www.skyandtelescope.com

Astronomy Magazine

www.astronomy.com

Societies and Organizations

International Dark-Sky Association

www.darksky.org

The Astronomical Society of the Pacific

www.aspsky.org

International Astronomical Union

www.iau.org

The Planetary society

planetarysociety.org