

FAIRBANKS MUSEUM & *planetarium*

Movement and Rhythms of the Heavens

Observing Project: Part 2

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The following instructions represent additional resources for continued study of the topics covered in our "Movement and Rhythms of the Heavens" online class. All materials are the property of Planetarium Director and Senior Meteorologist Mark Breen who created them.

Instructions: Observe the motions of the stars

Watching the motions of the stars takes time, and of course it happens at night. You can see some of the motions during the evening, by selecting certain stars in different directions.

- 1) Look in the south for a moderately bright star, one you can follow for a period of time of an hour or two. Notice how high above the horizon it is. Watch it each 15 minutes for one to two hours. Where does it move? Does it change direction? Does it change height?
- 2) Look in the north for a moderately bright star, one you can follow for a period of time of an hour or two. Notice how high above the horizon it is. Watch it each 15 minutes for one to two hours. Where does it move? Does it change direction? Does it change height?
- 3) Look for a star above the western horizon. You can use your hand to estimate how far above the horizon you see it. Watch it until it sets. How long did it take to set?
- 4) Look in the east. Watch for a moderately bright star to rise. What time did you see it rise? In which direction did the star rise?

