

## Key Vocabulary & Questions on Stars

**Star:** is a ball of burning gases that gives off light and heat. The Sun is a typical star.

**Constellation:** is a group of stars that form a pattern that has a name.

**Astronomers:** a scientist who studies the stars and other objects in space.

**Galaxy:** a large group of stars, gas, and dust held together by gravity

**Milky Way:** our galaxy which contains about 200 billion stars.

**Light year:** the distance which a ray of light would travel in one year.

**Apparent magnitude:** how bright a star appears to be from Earth.

**Absolute magnitude:** how bright a star actually is.

**Star Patterns:** different drawings with stories to help us locate constellations.

Questions to know:

***How do stars move across the sky?***

Stars are stationary, but they appear to move across the night sky because Earth is rotating.

***Why do we see different stars in the summer and winter sky?***

The dark side of Earth tilts or faces different directions as Earth orbits the Sun.

***How many stars are there?***

Billions

***What happens to stars at the end of their life?***

Small stars burn out and stop making heat and light. Large stars end with a huge explosion called a supernova.

***Who was Galileo and what was he the first to do?***

An Italian scientist who was the first person to use a telescope to look at objects in the night sky.

***What is a star map?***

A drawing that shows the locations of stars, constellations, planets, and objects in space.