

Introduction to the Night Sky Prelab Exercise

1. Read over the section of your Audubon Guide that covers the Constellations and the appearance of the Northern and Southern skies (plates 19-211).
2. Familiarize yourself with what constellations are up this month and where they can be found in the night sky (Audubon Guide, p.405-420).
3. Use your star wheel to determine which constellations should be visible at 8pm tonight. List the main ones.
4. Using either the Audubon guide or a star chart, what are the proper names of the following stars.

Alpha Orion
Zeta Ursa Major
Alpha Lyra
Beta Cassiopeia
Alpha Piscis Austrinus

5. Which is brighter, a 1st magnitude star or a 3rd magnitude star?