

Minilab: How far is that bright star?

This activity requires that students either download one of the many, readily available Astronomy/Star tracker apps for their cell phone (several examples provided here at the C/Net website:

<https://www.cnet.com/news/7-best-stargazing-apps-for-spotting-constellations-in-the-night-sky/>

When time and weather conditions allow, students should go outside at night and view the sky, locating any interesting bright star that catches their attention. With their Cell phone app, the student should identify the name of the star and, once identified, research (Google) the distance to that star, and any other interesting information about it.

What Cell phone app did you try out? _____

How easy was it to use? (on a scale of 1-5 with 1 = it was super hard and 5 = it was super easy)

(1) didn't work (2) (3) (4) (5) Super easy!

What cool features did this app have beyond naming the stars?

Would you recommend other use this app? Why or why not?

What is the name of the star you looked at? _____

What was the name of the constellation it was part of? _____

Use the space below to draw a picture of the constellation including both the star locations and the 'image' of the constellation itself (like the image of Orion holding his arms up).

On the back side of this sheet: Calculate how many years it would take to reach that star if you could ride inside one of today's fastest Satellites (such as the Voyager Satellites, launched back in the mid-1970s, travelling at 35,000 miles per hour). (note: Clark will do an example calculation during the week of Sept 7th during class.. TAKE NOTES!).