

GIRL GUIDES, IN YOUR POCKET!



What's in the night sky this week?

Astronomy

The wonderful thing about astronomy? All you need is an outside space and the night sky, and it's completely free. You can even do astronomy with your unit while you're not together – go outside on a clear night in your area, look up, and tell each other what you can see!

Equinox

The 20th of March was the *equinox*; this word comes from Latin and means “equal night and day”. This happens twice a year, in March and September, when the sun is directly overhead at the equator, and means the days and nights are the same length. In the northern hemisphere, the March equinox represents the start of spring; in Australia and the rest of the southern hemisphere, this equinox represents the start of autumn.

Question: What about summer and winter?

Answer: The *solstices* occur in June and December; these are the two times a year when the sun is furthest from the equator. “Solstice” comes from Latin and means “the standing still of the sun”.

Want to see a planet? Go outside just after dark and look to the west, near the moon. See that really bright point? That's not a star – that's the planet Venus. 😊

More information: *Skynotes* is available online for free via the Melbourne Planetarium and has heaps of information about which stars you can see from Victoria, interesting things to look for like comets or meteor showers, and even when you can see the International Space Station!

Find it here: <https://museums victoria.com.au/scienceworks/visiting/melbourne-planetarium/skynotes/skynotes-march-2020/>

