

## McDONALD OBSERVATORY VIDEOCONFERENCE

Post-Conference Activities for Grades K-5

### OBSERVATORY, DOMES, AND TELESCOPES

#### INTRODUCTION

During their videoconference "field trip" to McDonald Observatory, students visited the Otto Struve 2.1- meter telescope.

This post-conference activity helps students frame McDonald Observatory as a system by composing a story.

#### RELATED TEKS AND NSES

*Related TEKS:* K.2, K.4A, K.6D, 1.2, 1.4B, 1.6D, 2.2, 2.6(A+B), 3.2, 4.2, 4.5B, 5.2, 5.5B, 5.8B

*Related NSES:* Science and Technology: understanding about science and technology.

### ACTIVITY

#### GRADES K-2

Students compose a pictorial "comic strip" or storyboard about their exploration of McDonald Observatory that emphasizes the relationships between an *observatory*, *domes*, and *telescopes*. They may include people who they met working at the Observatory during their visit.

#### GRADES 3-5

Student can compose elaborate "comic strips", storyboards, or include pictures in a written story about their exploration of McDonald Observatory. The stories in whatever form should clarify the relationships between an *observatory*, *domes*, and *telescopes* for an audience that has not yet visited McDonald Observatory. Students may also include people they met during their visit.

#### ASSESSMENT

The post-conference student presentations should show improvement over the pre-conference activity that relates *observatory*, *dome*, and *telescope*.

Look for the following characteristics:

- There are general relationships among *observatory*, *dome*, and *telescope*.
- Domes enclose telescopes.
- Domes and telescopes, as well as the Astronomer Lodge, Physical plant, water tanks, and residential houses are collectively called McDonald Observatory and operate as a system.
- The Observatory's facilities extend across two mountaintops: Mt. Locke and Mt. Fowlkes.