Following Space Clues

How observations help scientists learn about space

E.2.8.4 "With teacher support, gain an understanding that scientists are humans who use observations and experiments to learn about space. Obtain information from informational text or other media about scientists who have made important..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the observations each scientist used as clues, and circle what each learned from them.

Clues in the Night Sky

1. Scientists are people who ask questions about space. They use tools and careful observations to find answers. In 1610, Galileo Galilei pointed a telescope at Jupiter. He saw four small points of light near the planet.

2. Galileo watched those lights on many nights. They moved to new places near Jupiter. From this, he learned that the lights were moons going around Jupiter. His notes helped show that not everything in space goes around Earth.

3. Johannes Kepler studied notes about where Mars appeared in the sky. Another scientist, Tycho Brahe, had made those careful notes. Kepler used them to learn that Mars travels around the Sun in an oval path, not a round one.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What tool did Galileo use, and what did he see near Jupiter?

2. What did Galileo learn by watching the lights on many nights?

3. Whose notes did Kepler study, and what did he learn from them?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you want to learn about the Moon's surface. In two sentences, tell what tool you would use, what you would look for, and what your observations might help you learn.

ANSWER KEY

Following Space Clues

GRADE 2 · E.2.8.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the observations each scientist used as clues, and circle what each learned from them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What tool did Galileo use, and what did he see near Jupiter?	**He used a telescope and saw four small points of light near Jupiter.**
2	What did Galileo learn by watching the lights on many nights?	**He learned that the lights were moons going around Jupiter.**
3	Whose notes did Kepler study, and what did he learn from them?	**He studied Tycho Brahe's notes and learned that Mars travels around the Sun in an oval path.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would use a telescope to look for craters on the Moon. Seeing many craters would help me learn that space rocks have struck its surface.

For Part 3, accept a tool and a visible feature of the Moon's surface if the student explains what observing that feature could help them learn.