

ASTRONOMY TEACHING TIPS

- Students, as well as teachers, have formed misconceptions that need to be addressed and clarified.
- Three-dimensional concepts, like eclipses and moon phases, can be very challenging for students to grasp. These situations should be “acted out” instead of relying on diagrams to effectively develop these concepts.
- The enormous sizes and distances of the planets to one another are challenging concepts for students. If students can use a comparative model where they use tangible items to represent the sizes and distances of the planets, they may have a clearer understanding of how they relate to each other.
- Terminology can be confusing, especially when so many terms sound similar. Clarify terms.
- We often overestimate how much our students can learn in one teaching period. Monitor their understanding and don’t overload them with information.
- Inquiry-based teaching is the most effective. Have students become aware of patterns, make and test predictions and infer possible explanations. They must also determine if their inferences are accurate and address any misconceptions.