INTRODUCTION

MC DONALD OBSERVATORY VIDEOCONFERENCE
Post-Conference Activities for Grades K-5

OBSERVATORY, DOMES, AND TELESCOPES
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.

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.