The Community at the Observatory  
Grades K-4 One or Two Class Period KWL discussion (one class)

Engage students with a KWL discussion: what do I know, what do I want to know, and what have I learned. During this pre-conference stage, gather prior knowledge (what do I know) and help students generate driving questions (what do I want to know).

During your conference with the Observatory, keep and review the list of the driving questions that you and the students generated.

After your conference, review the driving questions and focus on “what have I learned”. Challenge students to transfer their experience to the science they have learned in class.

Here are some questions to help students generate questions about what they want to know.

1. Who would you expect to meet working at an observatory?
2. What do you think an astronomer's typical day at an observatory would be like?
3. What do you think astronomers are trying to learn at an observatory?
4. Who lives at an observatory? Is life at an observatory different than life in your community?