RANGERS

Astrophotography

Astrophotography is the practise of taking photos of astronomical objects like planets or star clusters, celestial events like solar eclipses or meteor showers, and areas of the night sky.

The first photo of an astronomical object was taken back in 1840 using a reflective telescope – but nowadays you can use a camera, smartphone or tablet to capture the amazing things you see in the sky.

Try out some different ways to improve your astrophotography skills – who knows, you might capture the next new discovery! Jot down or doodle all the things you saw in the night sky in your stargazing journal on the next page.

Here's some top tips to help you take better photos in the night sky!

Tip number 1:

Use a long exposure setting or app.

This is great for landscape photography as it slows the shutter speed of your camera. This means that your camera can take in more light, so you can capture a longer period of time.

To do this, look at your camera settings for a button called exposure. This is sometimes found next to the flash button. We recommend setting it between 15-30 seconds.

Or if you don't have an exposure button, there are lots of long exposure free apps you can download and use too. These are great, and you can play around with the features to test out different exposure times to find what works best!

Tip number 2:

Use a tripod, stand, stack of books or something to keep your phone still. This will help reduce the blurriness of your photos so your stars will look sharper and clearer.

Tip number 3:

Turn the flash off. As stars are very far away, this will help your camera try to take in the light from the stars and not things closer to your camera.

Also, some newer phones have an astrophotography setting built into them, so look to see if you have this function too and play around to see what works best for your night sky.

Why not take some photos before and after using our top tips to see how different they look. Can you see the stars more clearly now?

RAS 200 Sky&Earth

WE DISCOVER, WE GROW Girlguiding

My stargazing journal

We created these fun resources with our friends at the **Royal Astronomical Society**. If you're inspired to find out more about our night sky, check out their website for lots of fun information and resources: **ras.ac.uk**