



**ERASMUS+ 2017-1-ES01-KA219-038074\_1**  
**OUT OF THE DARK: ASTRONOMY AS UNIFYING THREAD FOR CULTURES.**



## ***Star gazing***

***Authors:*** Erika Strålberg, Kristin Österberg

### ***Introduction***

This is one of the activities directly related to the field of Astronomy. We try to use our telescopes to observe the starry sky above us, just like we wrote in our original project, so we look for a good place, without light pollution and we lay down for star gazing.

### ***Materials***

Preparations: Using Stellarium, learning about stars, and draw star maps of our own.

Materials:

Very large blanket.

Homemade Galilean telescopes.

Binoculars.

### ***Procedure/Method***

Nights in May, in Sweden, are not very dark. We waited until 23.00 and then we went to Sundbyholm, by the lake of Mälaren. There we had a good sight over the sky above us, and very little light pollution.

We put a very large blanket on the ground and asked the group of 40 students to lay down and use a binocular or a telescope to look at the moon and the stars that slowly came out of the dark.

Our aim was to look for circumpolar constellations: Cassiopeia, Ursa major and Cepheus.

When the night was as dark as it gets in May, we could see the moon, the pole star, Jupiter in the south and the stars of the Cassiopeia constellation.



## ***Results***

We had good discussions about why the nights are so light in the north, and the few stars we could study were very nice.

## ***Conclusions***

Laying down, on a blanket outside in the dark, together with 40 students, is a wonderful feeling. Everybody should try it.

It created a very nice feeling in the project, bringing the students together.

## ***Thanks***

Thanks to Johan Andersson who barbecued the sausages we had at midnight, after our star gazing.