

Our Corner of the Universe
AST 101, Fall 2007
ASTRONOMY GO-ROUND
Week of August 28
Astronomy, pp. 7-10

There are many questions about the sky, the stars, what we see and why we see it. In today's lab we will produce a skit in which you will play planet Earth as it orbits the Sun. This will give you "physical" insight into the answers to the following, and other, questions.

1) a) Draw a sideview picture of the Sun and Earth in summer. Include lines for the North-South axis, and the equator on Earth.

b) Do the same for winter. Which hemisphere faces toward the Sun in our winter? What season is it there?

2) Why do we see different stars at different times of year?

3) Why does the position of sunrise along the eastern horizon change during the year?

4) If the days are long when we tilt toward the sun, and short when we tilt away from the sun, when are day and night equal?

5) Will people in China see the same stars at night as we do?