

Dark Skies Matter

SCHOOLS PROGRAMME
2023–24



www.thesill.org.uk/learning/schools
www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk

Discover Dark Skies with Northumberland National Park

December 2023 marks the **10th anniversary** of Northumberland National Park becoming England's first **International dark Sky Park**, receiving Gold Tier status. To celebrate, we have a range of activities suitable for schools, and a special exhibition opening at The Sill in autumn 2023. This flexible programme includes activities that can be delivered in school as well as at The Sill, with links to science, art, English, and history.

For more information or to book,
please email learning@nnpa.org.uk



THE DARKEST SKIES IN ENGLAND

Suitable for: **KS1–3**
Cost: **Free**

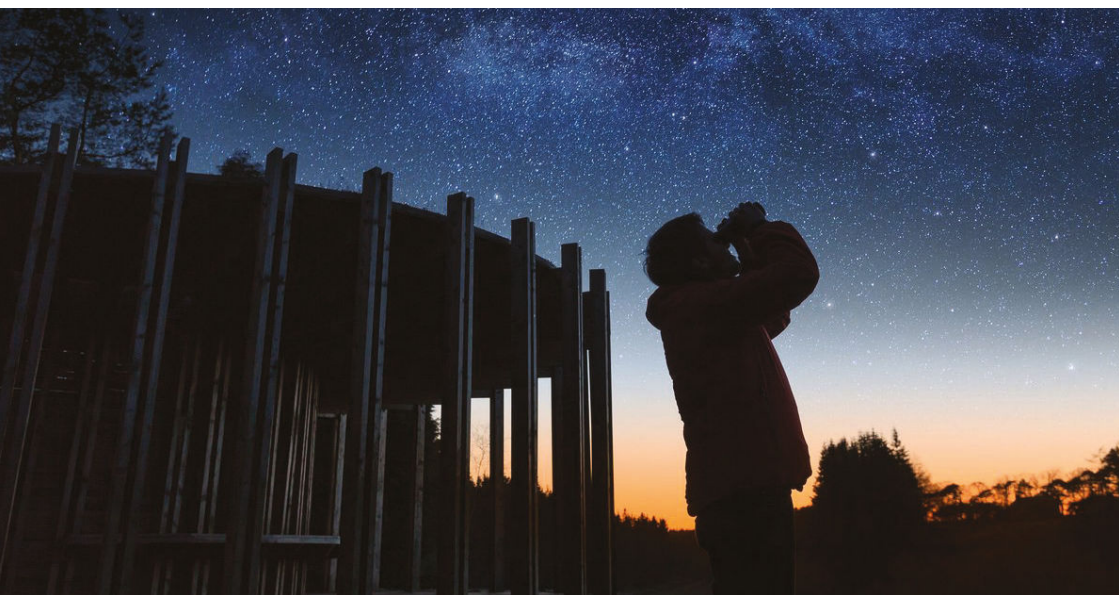
How many of us have truly seen a dark sky? In this interactive assembly, pupils will learn how and why the National Park protects the night sky, including how darkness is measured, and the different constellations that can be seen at different times of year.



ASTRO EXPLORERS

Suitable for: **KS1–2**
Cost: **£100**

Join Ace of Space Astronomy at The Sill for a fun and engaging workshop exploring the cosmos. Starting within our own solar system, we will explore the planets and some of the satellites, before heading out into deep space to rendezvous with the stars.



DISCOVER DARK SKIES

Suitable for: **KS1–3**
Cost: **£90**



Find out how darkness is measured using light meters, how we combat light pollution, and why the darkness is important to people and wildlife. The session will end with a dark sky art activity.



Sill Story Time: NIGHT SKY SPECIAL

Suitable for:
EYFS, KS1–2
Cost: **£100**

Take part in this special series of storytelling workshops, inspired by our dark skies. Pupils will listen to a story, find out why protecting the darkness is good for both us and for wildlife, and then be inspired to write their own stories and poems.



DARK SKIES LOANS BOX

Suitable for: **KS1–2**
Cost: **£50 per loan**

Bring the National Park into your classroom with this dark skies themed loans box. This box includes artefacts such as meteorites, and equipment such as red light torches, binoculars, and a light meter.



ARTS AWARD Opportunities

Using the night sky as inspiration, pupils can get creative and make some dark sky themed art, in order to gain a Discover level Arts Award. While learning about different artists and artforms, they will also find out more about constellations and why protecting the darkness is so important.

This is a flexible programme linked to science, English and art, suitable for different ages and abilities – please get in touch to find out more.

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