

STAR GAZERS

SG 1816 - 1M

APRIL 16-22, 2018

TIME TRAVELING WITH THE BIG DIPPER (UPDATE OF 1217)

JAMES:

THE BIG DIPPER IS IN A GREAT LOCATION FOR VIEWING ALL MONTH.

DEAN:

THAT'S RIGHT JAMES, AND THE LIGHT FROM SEVERAL OF THE SEVEN BIG DIPPER STARS TAKE A LIFETIME TO GET HERE.

STOP AND DROP

JAMES:

WHEN WE LOOK AT THE BIG DIPPER, WE'RE ACTUALLY LOOKING BACK IN TIME.

IT TAKES YEARS FOR STARLIGHT TO REACH EARTH.

IN FACT, THE LIGHT WE SEE FROM THE CLOSEST STAR IN THE BIG DIPPER, MEGREZ, LEFT 58 YEARS AGO IN 1960.

DEAN:

ALIOTH AND PHECDA ARE BOTH ABOUT 83 LIGHT YEARS AWAY SO THEY LEFT THOSE STARS BACK IN 1935.

JAMES:

MIZAR IS 78 LIGHT YEARS AWAY, AND THE LIGHT WE SEE FROM ALKAID BEGAN ITS JOURNEY 104 YEARS AGO.

DEAN:

THE LAST TWO STARS ARE DUBHE AND MERAK. MERAK IS 80 LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH, BUT DUBHE IS A WHOPPING 123 LIGHT YEARS AWAY.

LOOKING AT THE BIG DIPPER AND THAT OLD, OLD STARLIGHT CAN REALLY MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE A TIME TRAVELER.

BOTH:

KEEP LOOKING UP!
