

Tutorial 1: Welcome to Stellarium

Focus Question: What's cool about Stellarium?

1. Use the menu bar at the bottom of the screen to confirm that the program is set for the Horizons Observatory (latitude = 43 degrees, 37 minutes and longitude = 72 degrees, 31 minutes). If not, use the Location Window (left, top on menu bar) and type Horizons Observatory in the Finder, then set as Default. The date/time indicator (bottom center) should be set at the present date and time.

2. Stellarium Tutorials will often require making changes in viewing time. For minor time changes, experiment with the Time Speed icons at the bottom center. For significant changes, experiment with Date and Time icon (F5). Try setting time weeks, month, years, centuries, or even millennia. Simply double click to highlight and type in desired date/time.

3. Stellarium Tutorials will often require making changes in viewing location. Experiment with Location to change viewing location to any latitude or longitude. Hint: Use cursor to select approximate latitude or longitude, then set precise location below. DO NOT set to default.

4. Using the Help (question mark) and Search (magnifying lens) controls, find the most efficient ways to find objects and zoom to proper field of view (FOV in upper right of screen). Then use Help to discover other Stellarium functions and shortcuts.

5. Experiment with the icons on the bottom of the screen to find other efficient ways to navigate throughout Stellarium's night sky.

6. Share at least one command or sequence of commands discoveries you found especially powerful. Be prepared to share your most interesting discovery and any questions you have regarding the sky or the program.

7. Set time and date for February 1st and stop time. Your viewing location should be the Horizons Observatory. Using the Search icon, locate the following objects and record their azimuth and altitude. Note: If the location or time are not set properly, your responses will be incorrect.

Stars	azimuth	altitude
Sirius		
Regulus		
Polaris		

Deep Sky Objects (Zoom to 2 degrees)	azimuth	azimuth
Orion Nebula (M42)		
Andromeda Galaxy (M31)		

8. Explain why stars and deep sky objects are included in #7 but not the moon or any of the planets. (Hint: Although the program is set for February 1st at 9:00 P.M., the year may vary.)