



**astrology:**

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## Mars Rover Model Celebration – Lesson Plan

### Introduction:

There are two words that sound alike that you may have heard that relate to the stars, “astrology” and “astronomy”. Although many people get the two words confused, astrology and astronomy are actually very different.

Let’s talk about the word astrology first.

Astrology means “using the positions and movements of the stars, moon and planets might influence events and the lives and behaviors of people”. Most people know their “astrological sign” or “sign” (e.g., Pisces, Aries, Virgo, etc.). Your astrological sign refers to where the sun was in relation to the earth on the day you were born. This is a picture of how it works (hold up the picture for the students to see). Astrology originated under the belief that the earth was at the center (point to the center of the chart) and the sun moved around the earth (run your finger around the outer ring of signs). So, the position of the sun on the day you were born is what determines your astrological sign. Astrologists believe that how the sun, moon and planets are positioned will influence your personality, behaviors and world events.

While astrology has a very long history, in modern day, it is not considered a science, as it does not consistently use scientific method. While many people, especially scientists, do not believe in astrology and think it is like fortune-telling, other people strongly believe in it. The word astrology comes from ancient Greek. The root of the word astrology is “astro” which means “star”. The suffix “ology” means “the study of”. Putting the two words together -“astro” and “logy” – means “the study of stars”, which is close to the definition I just gave you. As you can see, knowing word parts can help you understand the meanings of new words you may encounter as you read.

### Example:

Remember, astrologists believe that the position and movements of the stars and planets can be used to predict what a person will be like (their characteristics and personality), what a person is likely to do, and what things are likely to happen in the world around us (events). One difficulty most people have with astrology is that most of the predictions are vague or general and could apply to most people or events and scientists have not been able to show through scientific method that astrology is indeed real.

### Reflection:

Everyone in the world was born under one of the 12 astrological signs (show chart again). Suppose the personality traits of one sign (for now we will call this sign X) were: modest, shy, intelligent, pays attention to detail, thinks carefully about things, is someone you can depend on, wants everything to be perfect, and worries about little things.

Raise your hand if you think that **all of these traits** apply to you? Keep your hands up. Now, raise your hand if you think **some** of these traits might apply to you **sometimes**. Keep your hands up too. Now, how many of you with your hand up were born between August 22 and September 21? Was anyone without their hand up born during this time? If you were born between these dates, astrology would say these traits would describe you. So, you can see how

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the traits are rather general and could apply to many of use at some time – regardless of when we were born. This is what makes many people think astrology is not a real science.

### **Make it personal:**

Why would it be important not to take astrological predictions (some of you may be familiar with these in the form of horoscopes) seriously and to only read them for fun? *Answers will vary.*