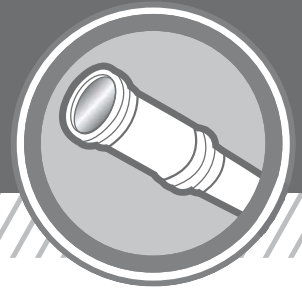


# ACTIVITY OBSERVING WITH THE 28 INCH LOCATION GREAT EQUATORIAL BUILDING



## GALLERY GREAT EQUATORIAL TELESCOPE ///

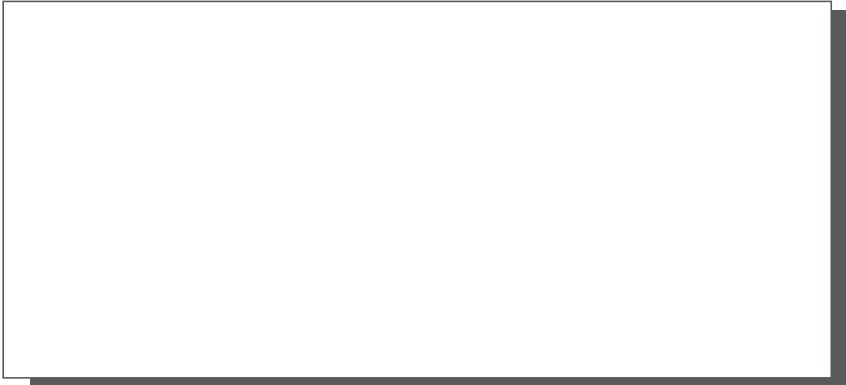


**This telescope is called the 28 Inch telescope. As you can see this is not the length of the telescope. What is 28 inches (71cm) referring to? ///**

The telescope usually operates at a magnifying power of between 200-300 times magnification. You can see the results of looking at the Moon on the screens.

**Look around the room near the floor and you will see some dim red lights that are not switched on. Why do you think they would be switched on and the main bright white lights switched off when observing? ///**

Look at the panel that shows the old roof compared to the new one. Why did it have to change in shape?///



This telescope has an equatorial mount that allows it to move in an arc. It is much easier to follow targets in the sky in this way as many objects in the night sky rise and set in an arc as the Earth spins. Before motorised tripods, this was the most efficient way to observe objects over long periods of time.

Can you prepare for a night of observing with this telescope?///

*The first and the last steps in setting up the 28 inch telescope are given – try and put the steps in between in the right order (2-6). Think about the safety of the telescope and you: the astronomer!*

- 1 Check the wind speeds so the dome doesn't blow off! (Wind speed indicators are to the left and up when you came through the door).
- Switch off the bright white lights and switch on the very dim red lights to keep your night vision.
- Take off the dust cap at the top of the telescope. It's bigger than the size of a dustbin lid!
- Open the dome slit so the telescope has a gap to see through.  
**Warning!** Dust and dirt may fall into the room at this point.
- Move the telescope dome around so that the gap in the dome is facing your chosen star or planet.
- Move the telescope away from the dome slit to prevent dust and dirt falling onto the lens.
- 7 Move the telescope to the right part of the sky to point at your chosen star or planet and look through it.