



## Fernbank Science Center

**Title:** Mystery of the Christmas Star (1411)      **Type:** Planetarium  
**Level:** Grades 3/4/5      **Length:** 45 minutes  
**Location:** Planetarium      **Limit:** 300

### **Program Description**

Travel to long ago and far away, and search the sky for a sign. What did the wise men follow? Was it a comet? A meteor shower? A supernova? Planets? Explore the astronomy of ancient times, and find some of the same constellations in tonight's sky.

### **Please Note:**

This is a two part program, which includes a tour of the current night sky (constellations and planets) using the Zeiss planetarium projector followed by a fulldome planetarium presentation.

.

### **Georgia Standards of Excellence**

SS3G2. Locate and describe the equator, prime meridian, and lines of latitude and longitude on a globe.

S4E2. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to model the effects of the position and motion of the Earth and the moon in relation to the sun as observed from the Earth.

ELA 5: Explain relationships or interactions between individuals, events, or concepts  
Describe how a narrator's point of view influences how events are described.

### **Vocabulary**

Eclipse	Asteroid	Sun	Moon
Conjunction	Latitude	Navigation	Supernova

### **Pre-visit Activity**

Prepare your students to view the night sky. Use this web site to fold a star finder for the month of December:

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/starfinder/en/>

## **Vocabulary**

Ask students to discuss what possible events could have been the star of Bethlehem. Have each team make a claim, use evidence to support their claim, and explain their reasoning.