## Sky Science

## Investigating and critiquing a model



## Observe \& Question



California Academy of Sciences

## Focus Question

Why do we see the colors we do in Earth's sky?

## Investigate \& Observe

- What colors do you see, and where?



## Lights are going off!

## An initial explanation

1. Based on what you know about light and color, what do you think is happening to the light in the bucket?

- Discuss and share ideas as a group.

2. As a group, write one explanation that you can agree on, and provide evidence:
" At first we think $\qquad$ because $\qquad$ .

## Some "just in time" information

$\checkmark$ Three ways that light interacts with matter:

- Transmit (passes through)
- Reflect (bounces off of)
- Absorb (turns into another form of energy-for example heat)
$\checkmark$ Light is can also scattered = redirected in random directions by interacting with small particles in its
 path.
$\checkmark$ White light is the combination of many colors of light.

As a group, write one explanation that you can agree on, and provide evidence:
$\qquad$ .

## Plan to investigate

1. As a group, decide one thing to change in your model to test your initial explanation.
2. Based on your explanation, what effect do you predict this change will have on what you observe?

## Reflect \& Revise (or confirm)

1. Based on what you observed, do you need to revise your explanation?

- Now we think $\qquad$ because $\qquad$ .
- We confirm our thinking because $\qquad$ .

2. What are you wondering now? What would you want to try next?

## Sharing discoveries

» Leave your latest investigation set-up, notes, and explanations visible on your table.
» Visit at least one neighboring lab to see what they have been up to.
» Return to your lab and share any new ideas or questions.

## Modeling the sky

Think-Pair-Share:

- Which bucket (milky or plain water) is more like Earth's sky? Why?
- Which is more like the moon's sky? Why?

Think-Pair-Share
What do you think this diagram is intended to show?
» How does it relate to the focus question?
» How does it relate to our model?


## Think-Pair-Share



What do you think this diagram is intended to show?
» How does it relate to the focus question?
» How does it relate to our model?

## Critiquing our model

| Part of the model |  | Part of the real world | They are alike because... <br> STRENGTHS | They are different because... <br> LIMITATIONS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Water filling the bucket | Is <br> like... | Space <br> surrounding the earth or the moon |  |  |
| Milk mixed into the water |  | Atmosphere |  |  |
| Flashlight shining through the water |  | Sunlight |  |  |

## Focus Question: What do you think now?

Why do we see the colors we do in Earth's sky?

