

## **GLOBE at Night 2010** **3 – 16 March**

Everyone everywhere is invited to participate in the 5th annual global campaign to measure night sky brightness known as [GLOBE at Night](#). GLOBE at Night provides participants an opportunity to go outside and observe the constellation Orion from 3-16 March 2010. Participants simply choose a clear, moonless night during these two weeks between 8 and 10pm local time, match what they see in this portion of the sky with one of 7 [GLOBE Magnitude Charts](#), and [enter their observations](#) into the GLOBE at Night Web site. Students — alongside teachers, parents and the general public — amass a data set from which they can begin to explore the concept of light pollution and to research patterns occurring across the globe.

Light pollution is now recognized as yet another human-made form of pollution similar to air, water and noise pollution that causes damage to our environment. Light pollution is defined by the International Dark-Sky Association as any adverse effect of artificial light, including sky glow, glare, light trespass, light clutter, decreased visibility at night, and energy waste. Unobtrusive artificial lighting directed downward that sensibly illuminates roads and property is considered necessary and useful lighting, but excessive lighting or lighting that leaks sideway or upwards is wasted lighting and constitutes light pollution.

Light pollution takes a toll on our environment. It is wasteful, requiring energy often generated from non-renewable sources such as oil and coal. It affects wildlife, such as sea turtles, who bury their eggs in sandy beaches at night and then return to the sea guided by the sight of shimmering seas reflecting moonlight, which nature intended to be the brightest light on any given night. Artificial light confuses them, luring them away from the ocean and subjecting them to the dangers of roads and predators. Light pollution has been shown to affect the mating, migration and predation behaviors of many different species. Light pollution obscures the night sky for astronomical observations, disrupts ecosystems and can have adverse health effects. Light pollution has a less measurable, but equally important, consequence: the great loss to the human experience when we cannot gaze up into a night sky full of stars.

GLOBE at Night helps students become aware of Earth as a system while observing the atmosphere and learning that what we do on Earth affects the skies above. Participation in GLOBE at Night is open to anyone in the world to get outside and look skyward during 3-16 March. You can enter your observations on the [GLOBE at Night Report](#) web page from 3-31 March.

Participation does not require any special training or instruction. The [GLOBE at Night Web site](#) provides all the information needed to participate, including instruction guides for teachers, students and parents.

There is no cost to participate in GLOBE at Night. Please share information about GLOBE at Night with anyone who might be interested. [Color postcards and one-page flyers are available](#) on the Web site for you to distribute. In 2009, citizen scientists from 70 countries submitted over 15,000 observations. Help us top that in 2010!