Big Bird’s Adventure

Elmo and Big Bird live in the United States and Hu Hu Zhu lives far away in China, but they discovered that they still see the same stars at night! The word for star in Chinese is “xīng xīng” (pronounced sing sing). How many “xīng xīng” do you see in this sky?

- Use your fingers to connect the stars in this sky.
- Find the shapes that look like a big spoon. That’s the Big Dipper!
- How many stars are in the Big Dipper? What other shapes can you find in the sky?

- Hu Hu Zhu used two stars in the Big Dipper to find the North Star — the “friendship star.” See if you can find it too! Do you remember why the North Star is Hu Hu Zhu’s favorite star?

- Elmo is 3 years old and Big Bird is 6 years old. The stars in the sky are thousands of millions of years old. How old are you?

- Children all over the world share stories about the Moon. Is the Moon in the United States. Children often hear about a man in the Moon, while in China, children hear about a rabbit in the Moon. Look at the dark and light sides of the Moon. What do you see? How invent your own story about the Moon?

- The Moon does not look the same every night. Sometimes the Moon is big and round like a ball, and other times it looks like a banana. Look out your window at night and draw the shape of the Moon. When you look up at the Moon try to say “ni hao Xing Xing.”

Close your eyes...then, open them!
Point to the first star you see.
Now, make a wish!
Thank you for coming to One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure.

We hope you enjoyed exploring the Sun, stars, and Moon with your favorite friends.
Now you and your child can continue the learning with your own adventures!

Ellie and Hu Hu Zhu discovered that children in China and the United States see the same sky at night. Using the One World, One Sky Big Bird's Adventure poster, you and your child can explore how much you have in common with families half way around the world.

Try the fun activities and games provided; they are a great way to bring the Sun, stars, and Moon into your daily routines. Whether you're strolling down a sunny street or peering out your window at bedtime, you and your child can take exciting first steps on a path of shared discovery!

The Sun

LEARN ABOUT SHADOWS
Together, explore how blocking the Sun's light can make a shadow. Find your shadow on a sunny day.

- Try to dance with it!
- Can you make it disappear?
- Notice how shadows change in the morning, your shadows are long. How do they look in the middle of the day, around lunchtime?

The Stars

GO STARGAZING!
Ellie and Hu Hu Zhu imagined star patterns in the sky. Look up at the stars together, or use the power on the back of this book.

- What patterns do you see?
- Look for a line of stars or three stars that make a triangle.
- Search for the Big Dipper — the big spoon — in the northern sky. When you find it, encourage your child to put your two hands above the stars farthest from the handle, just like Hu Hu Zhu, to find the North Star — "the friendship star!"

Wondering about the Sun...

Do you know? The Sun actually acts like a little lemon! The other stars give off light and heat, just like our Sun! We earthlings see the stars by looking at them. Because they are far away, the Sun is near us and your child can see a star at night. Talk together about how it makes different bright stars.

The Moon

KEEP A MOON JOURNAL.
Make a habit of looking for the Moon before bedtime.

- Your child can draw its shape and keep a journal describing how the Moon changes.
- Together, write a sentence describing how the Moon looks each night.
- Maybe you can find the Crescent Moon that Ellie and Hu Hu Zhu saw.
- Sometimes you can even find the Moon during the day — so remember to look up!