

For those of you who missed the second astronomy lecture on campus, you must complete the following makeup assignment to receive a grade in the class.

Read the section on telescopes in Norton's Star Atlas or look on the web for sites on telescope basics such as:

<http://www.skywatchertelescope.net/EducationTBOD.html>

<http://www.spacegazer.com/telescope-basics-g.asp>

http://www.sherwoods-photo.com/scope_info/scope_basics_fs.htm

1. Describe the two major kinds of telescopes and some of the problems (aberrations) associated with their designs. How do optical designers correct for these efficiencies?
2. Make a list of the pros and cons of the different telescope designs.
3. What aspects of a telescope are important when deciding what telescope to buy?
4. What are the two types of telescope mounts and the advantages and disadvantages of each?

You might use the following sites to help with the next set of questions.

<http://seds.org/messier/xtra/supp/cats.html>

<http://obs.nineplanets.org/ngc.html>

NGC catalog

Charles Messier:

<http://seds.org/messier/xtra/history/biograph.html>

long version

<http://seds.org/messier/xtra/Bios/messier.html>

short version

<http://seds.org/messier/xtra/history/m-cat.html>

5. What astronomical pursuit did Charles Messier devote his life to? What was the reason that he composed his catalog?
6. Make a short list of the types of objects contained in Messier's catalog.
7. What does the designation NGC 1976 mean? What is it? Does it have any other designations?