



Science



WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED AN ASTROLABE?

Key Stage: 4

Length: 1-2 hours (adaptable)

Maximum number: See [Planning a visit](#)

The Museum has the World's largest collection of astrolabes, an astonishingly ingenious type of astronomical calculating device with a history that stretches back to the ancient Greeks. This facilitated session introduces students to this fascinating instrument and by making their own model astrolabe enables them to gain insight into how it was used.

Students are introduced to ancient models of the Universe through discussion and a demonstration of an armillary sphere. This leads to an explanation of how such models were used for modeling astronomical movements and provided the basis of the astrolabe. A brief introduction to the astrolabe gives students an insight into the ingenuity and craftsmanship that went into making these instruments.

The students then have the opportunity to make their own working model of an astrolabe based on one in the Museum's collection, and are guided in how to use it to carry out some simple calculations.

This session is particularly suitable for challenging **gifted and talented** students.



For booking and further information contact the Education Officer:

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