

**ASTRO 1050 - Fall 2012**  
**LAB #3: Observing on the Roof**

**1. Records**

Tonight you will have a chance to observe the night sky both with the naked eye and through different sizes of telescopes. The main purpose of this lab is to get you looking up- most people go through life without even noticing that the stars are there! Keep in mind that while the images you will see through the telescopes will not be as spectacular as the images you might see in your textbook (your eyes just aren't sensitive enough), you are actually seeing the objects for real- the light has traveled millions or even billions of miles to get to your eye!

Good scientists always keep detailed records of exactly what conditions they are observing under, as well as where and when observations took place. Without this information an observation does not provide any useful knowledge. As you know, the time (of the night and of the year) you observe will determine the position of objects in the sky- so recording this information is an important part of the scientific process.

(1) Where are you observing? What time are your observations taking place?

(2) What are the conditions of the night sky tonight?

(3) Is the moon out? What direction is it in? What phase is it in?

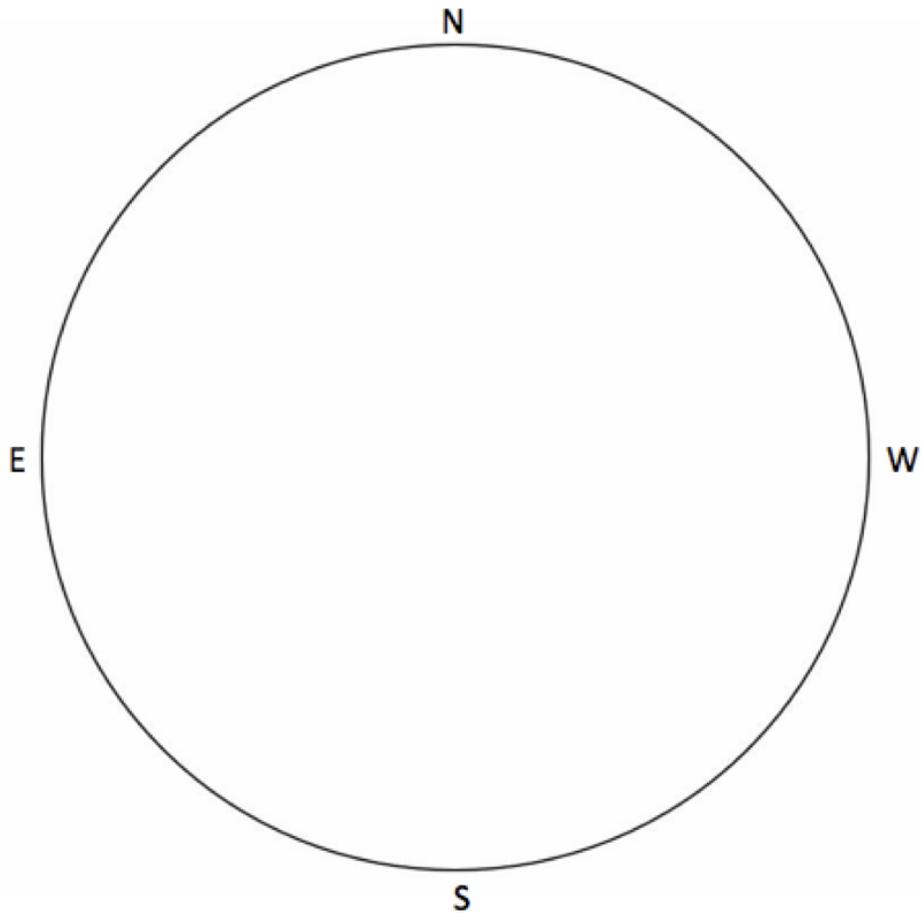
(4) Throughout the history of astronomy, astronomers and engineers have been designing larger and larger telescopes. Why is this? What is the advantage of a larger telescope?

Date:

Time:

Sky Conditions:

Object:



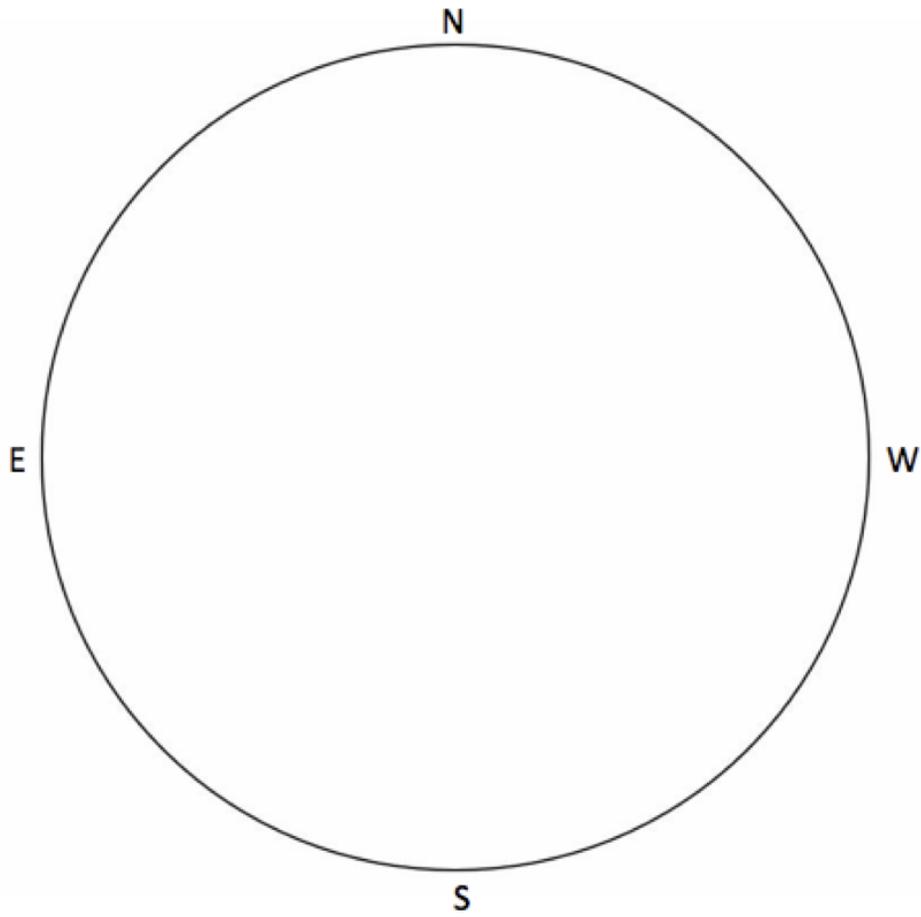
Describe your object and include a sketch above:

Date:

Time:

Sky Conditions:

Object:



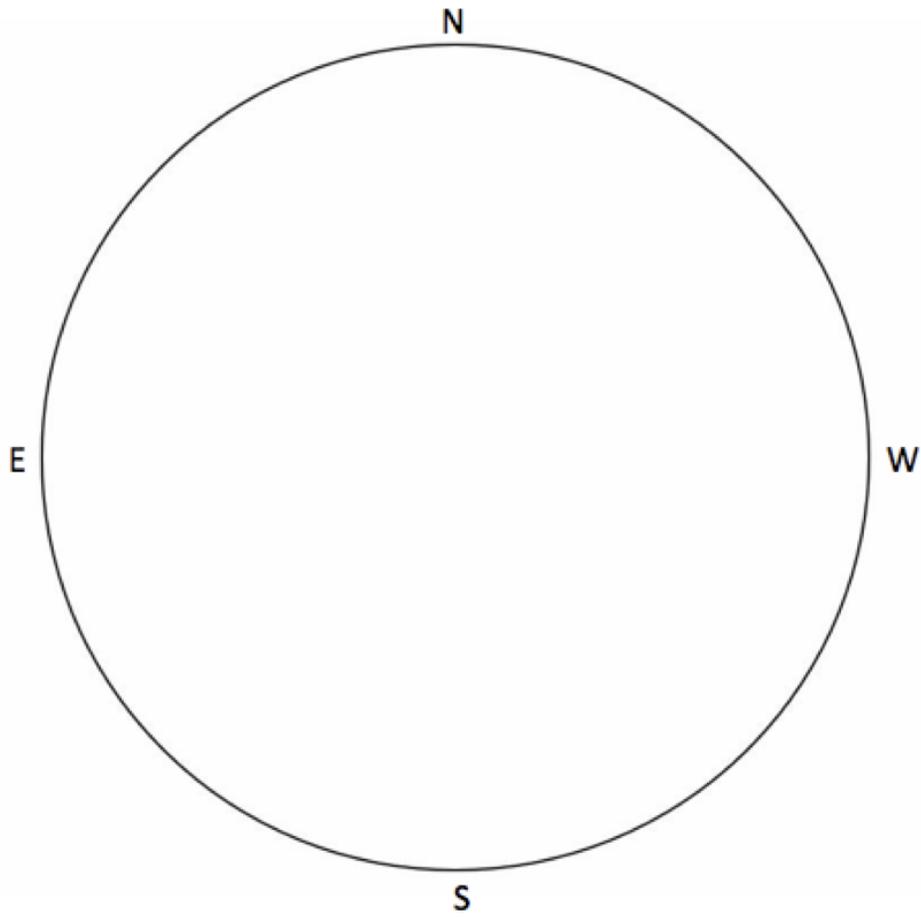
Describe your object and include a sketch above:

Date:

Time:

Sky Conditions:

Object:



Describe your object and include a sketch above: