

Practice of the junior high school science lesson about movement of the planet which took in observation of Venus

Yasunobu Ueda[1], Shin-ichi Kawakami[2], Yamada Shigeki[3], Nao Egawa[4]

[1] Science edu., Gifu Univ, [2] Fac. Educ. Gifu Univ., [3] Nagara Junior High School, [4] Earth and Planetary Sci, Nagoya Univ.

<http://chigaku.ed.gifu-u.ac.jp/chigakuhp/>

Venus moved from the greatest eastern elongation to the inferior conjunction along its orbit in the period from January to March, 2001. During this period Venus could be seen as the brightest star in the southwest sky after sunset. Repetitive observations of the Venus by naked eyes have showed us that the position of Venus at the time of sunset shifted from southwest to the west. Observations by binocular or telescope have revealed that the shapes of Venus also changed from half-moon like to crescent-like. These observations should stimulate junior high school students for more understanding and study in astronomy. Here we had classrooms for continuous observations of Venus using binoculars and hand-made telescopes by individual students. The students have got information on the shapes of the Venus by internet access at the homepages of the Earth Science Course of Faculty of Education, Gifu University, whose images have been obtained from the University astronomical facility. The responses of students to the study activity are reported.