

The Most Amazing Hobby

There are tens of thousands of hobbies, aren't there? Some seem pointless, others offer a opportunity for self-improvement and others offer the chance to make some money, but what is the most amazing hobby of them all? It is so amazing that the overwhelming majority of individuals in the world have taken part in it and do on a regular basis. It fascinates millions of individuals each day. Or should I say each night, because I am referring to amateur astronomy or, more in essence, star gazing. Every sighted person in the world throughout the history of mankind, has looked up at the planets and the stars in the night sky and thought of something. Individuals wonder different questions, but everyone has pondered something whilst looking at the stars. Astronomy is a excellent hobby that surely everybody is interested in. It is there to do, free of charge most nights of the week if the sky is clear. If you want to see more, you can buy a pair of binoculars and if you want to study objects even further away, you can buy a telescope. Neither of these optical aids is highly expensive at the entry level, but the difference they will make to your level of enjoyment of the hobby is, well, amazing. Books on astronomy are not expensive and they will point the novice in the correct direction for seeing all types of amazing sights: constellations, planets, meteor storms, visiting comets etc.. There is also a wealth of free information on line. Join Jodrell Bank (the British Observatory) on Twitter to be kept informed about what is happening in the night sky in the near future in your region. This is another fascinating aspect of this hobby, visiting observatories, where you get the chance to observe the universe from as close as we can get and still be on terra firma. If you have never looked at the night sky through a colossal telescope (or even any telescope), you have a colossal treat in store for yourself. Children adore astronomy and I have heard many well-known astronomers say that their love of astronomy started when a relative pointed to the night sky and explained something to them. This led to taking out library books on astronomy and asking for a telescope for Christmas. Twenty years later they are on television explaining some astronomical fact to the nation. That is amazing. Not lots of chess players or stamp collectors or football fans can claim the same. And there is still so much to learn about the solar system. Everybody has a chance to try to explain something. Even though most of the 'simple stuff' has already been discovered, it has not all been explained to the satisfaction of all astronomers. If you are not so interested in astronomy yourself or do not have the time, why not give the opportunity to some kid you know? Instead of the usual Christmas or birthday presents, give a book on astronomy, binoculars or a telescope, you could be encouraging the next Patrick Moore, but at least you will be introducing someone to the most amazing hobby on the planet or even in the universe. Owen Jones, the author of this article, writes on a number of subjects, but is now concerned with the [kids building set](#). If you would like to know more, please visit our website at [Smart Toys for Kids](#).