

Constellation Creations

Materials

- ★ Cardboard cylinder
- ★ Scissors
- ★ Constellation cutouts
- ★ Tape
- ★ Toothpick
- ★ Sky map

Click the logo below to download the latest sky map.



Students will learn about the night sky by observing constellations and making their own star projector.

3rd - 5th
Grade

What are Constellations?

In total, there are 88 official constellations that are recognized around the world. Each of these are a group of stars that make an imaginary shape in the night sky. They are typically named after mythological characters, animals, people, and objects.

Directions

1. Print out the constellation sheet and cut each of them out. Click on Orion the Hunter to view and print this page out. If you don't have access to a printer, you can use the sheet as a guide to draw your own with pen and paper.
2. Grab your cardboard cylinder (this can be from a toilet paper roll or paper towel roll) and tape the cutout over one of the openings.
3. Very carefully use a toothpick to poke holes where you see the dots on the constellation outlines. These dots represent the different stars that are used to draw the constellation in the night sky.
4. Close one eye and place the open end of the cardboard roll over the other. Point the viewer at any source of light and observe the light coming through to light up the stars of your constellation!



Orion
the Hunter

Optional Activity

With an adult, go outside after sunset and see what constellations are above you. To help guide you along the way, you can access the Sky map for this month that will show you what constellations are visible at this time. They update their maps each month be sure to check back with them as the year goes on!

