



Mini Night Sky Constellation

Stars in the night sky can be seen to form into different pictures and shapes such as a lion, triangle, or a person like a hunter holding a bow. A group of stars is known as a constellation, and many of these constellations as seen from Earth appear to move.

People have used these pictures in the night sky to help them know the time of year it is, understand their position on Earth, tell stories, and to make a map the night sky at different times of the year.



BOOTES
CONSTELLATION



ORION
CONSTELLATION



LEO
CONSTELLATION

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 88 constellations in the night sky. There are billions of stars in the night sky so not every star is in a constellation. Constellation pictures or shapes are usually made up of the brightest stars we can see with our eyes.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO

Try out the activity on the back of this sheet for a fun way to make your own Mini Night Sky Constellation at home.

FIND OUT MORE

- **NASA's Space Place** <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/search/constellations/>
- **Sky Tellers: The Myths, the Magic, and the Mysteries of the Universe at the Lunar and Planetary Institute**
<https://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/skytellers/constellations/>
- Your local library may have a library telescope that you can check out and take home like you do a book! Use the telescope to find stars and constellations.

MAKE YOUR OWN MINI NIGHT SKY CONSTELLATION

What You Need:

Toilet paper roll
White paper
Scissors
Pencil
Tape
Flashlight
(push pin optional)

Look at the constellations provided on this sheet or look some up online. Now you will create your own star picture (constellation) and story.

Instructions:

- 1** Trace the end of a toilet paper roll on white paper and cut out the circle.
- 2** Draw a simple picture on the circle such as an animal, shape or object.
- 3** Using the pencil (or push pin), carefully punch a few holes along the lines of your picture.
- 4** Tape the paper to one end of the toilet paper roll.
- 5** In a dark room (turn off the lights), point the toilet paper roll toward a dark wall, floor, table, or ceiling and shine a flashlight through the open end.
- 6** If needed, punch a few more holes along the lines of your picture to see the stars in the shape.
- 7** Think of a story that your constellation is telling?



I ❤️ constellations!



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