

Summer Stargazing



Project a constellation onto the wall, then head outside to see the real thing.



WHAT YOU NEED:

- Scissors
- Toothpick
- Flashlight
- Binoculars (optional)



HOW TO:

- Cut out the constellation circle card here.
- Use the toothpick to punch a hole in each larger star dot.
- Go into a dark room and use the flashlight to project the constellation onto the wall.
- Go outside on a clear night and look at the starry sky. Maybe you will even be able to find Scorpius! *Hint:* Look south towards the horizon. If you have binoculars handy, it may be a fun time to use them!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

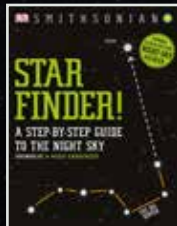


A constellation is a group of stars that form a pattern. Today's astronomers recognize 88 different constellations. Many constellations are named after animals or figures from mythology. Constellations were sometimes used to tell stories, and different people across the world named their own constellations. Depending on your location and season, the constellations you see in the night sky will change as the Earth orbits around the sun. Here in Michigan during the summer, you should be able to see the constellations Sagittarius, Cygnus and Hercules, in addition to Scorpius.

Fun Fact



Constellations travel from east to west across the night sky, just like the sun. The word "constellation" comes from a Latin term meaning "set with stars."



Related Books

- *Star Stories: Constellation Tales from Around the World* by Anita Ganeri
- *Star Finder!: A Step-by-Step Guide to the Night Sky* by DK
- *Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos* by Stephanie Roth Sisson