



## Activity 2: Explore Constellations Three Ways

### Option 2: Constellation Light Show

#### Supplies

- Constellation card templates (provided)
- Black construction paper (8-1/2 x 11), one sheet for each child
- Sharpened pencils or toothpicks
- Tape
- Flashlight
- Pieces of cardboard



**This activity needs a darkened room**

#### Let's get started!

In this activity, kids will prepare a constellation for a group light show in the dark.

Print out enough copies of the individual constellation pages so that the kids will have some options when they choose their constellation. The templates can be found after page 23.

Ask the kids to choose a favorite constellation. Show them how to tape their constellation template to a sheet of black paper, and then put the taped constellation on top of a piece of cardboard to protect the surface you are working on when you poke holes in the paper.

Tell the kids that each of the dots on the constellation sheet represents a star. Using a small pointed object (a pen or toothpick works well), show them how to poke holes in the dots for each star.

Then gather all the kids together in the room for the starry night show! Turn off all the lights in the room, hold your paper up to the wall and shine the flashlight behind it. Everyone will see the stars of your constellation light up on the wall. Give each child a turn to show their constellation to the group.



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### Option 3: If I Was a Constellation (Life-Sized Constellations)

#### Introduction

Show kids the constellation Orion and discuss with them how the stars mark his shoulders and his belt, sword, and shield. Tell them the story of Orion and as a group, write an acrostic poem.

#### Supplies

- Orion constellation illustration (provided)
- Roll of black paper (at least 36" wide) — you can use white if black is not available.
- 8-1/2 x 11 white paper
- Stars cut out of yellow construction paper (about 8-10 2-inch stars per child)
- Pencils, pens, markers
- White chalk — or colored chalk if using white paper on the wall
- Tape

#### Let's get started!

In this activity, kids will invent their own life-sized constellations. After telling the Orion story, ask the kids to think about how they might create their own character or animal constellation by posing with their bodies.

Tape kid-sized sheets of paper to the wall and have each child stand in the constellation pose of their own invention in front of their paper. Mark the main points of the body with pencil or marker — just make a small "X".