

Name _____

Period _____

Constellations of the Night Sky



Introduction: After visiting the Star Lab you now have a better understanding of the location of specific stars and constellations in the sky. It is time to share your knowledge with the rest of Walter T. Bergen Middle School.

Directions: In groups, research one of the constellations in the night sky and create a poster to showcase your experience in the Star Lab. All posters will be displayed in the science hall.

Constellation: _____

Requirements for Poster:

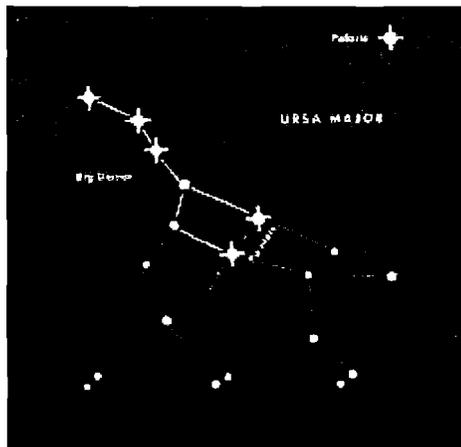
1. Name of constellation is shown clearly and large enough to read.
2. Picture of constellation is drawn and colored neatly or printed out from the computer.
3. Stars of constellation are spelled correctly and labeled neatly.
4. Determine the season for viewing the constellation. Example: winter sky
5. Describe the Greek Myth about the constellation. Minimum: two paragraphs
6. Share three interesting facts about the constellation. Example: constellation shape, major star colors, any galaxies or star clusters found in the constellation, etc.

To start, check out the website

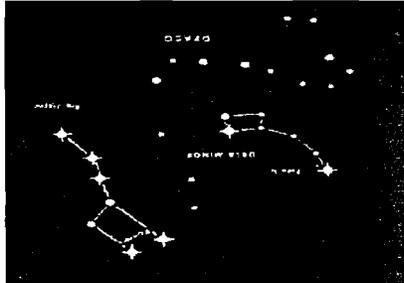
http://www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/the_universe/Constellations/north_constellations.html

Constellations

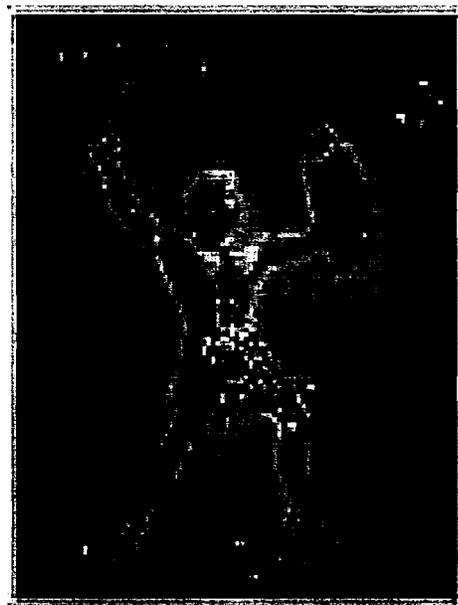
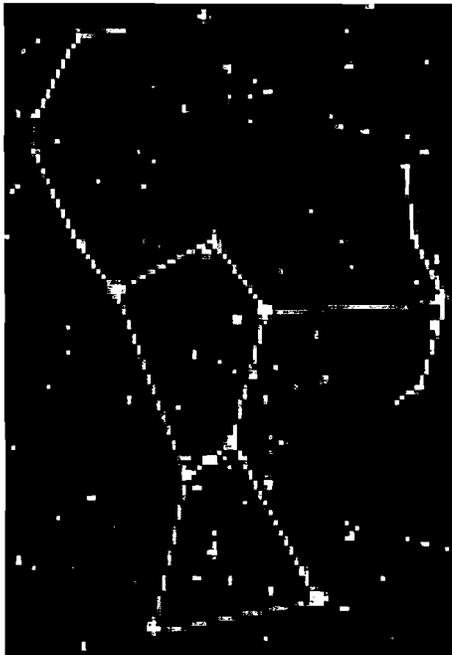
1. A constellation is a group of stars that, when seen from Earth, form a pattern.
2. The stars in the sky are divided into 88 constellations.
3. The purpose of constellations is to tell us which stars are in which location in the sky. Farmers, poets, and astronomers made up these imaginary names.
4. Different constellations are visible at different times of the year due to the Earth's revolution around the Sun.
5. Farmers used constellations to tell when crops were to be planted in the spring and harvested in the fall.
6. The best known group of stars is the Big Dipper. The Big Dipper is a group of seven bright stars, 3 which form a handle and 4 which form a bowl. The Big Dipper is not actually a constellation but is part of the constellation Ursa Major, or Great Bear.



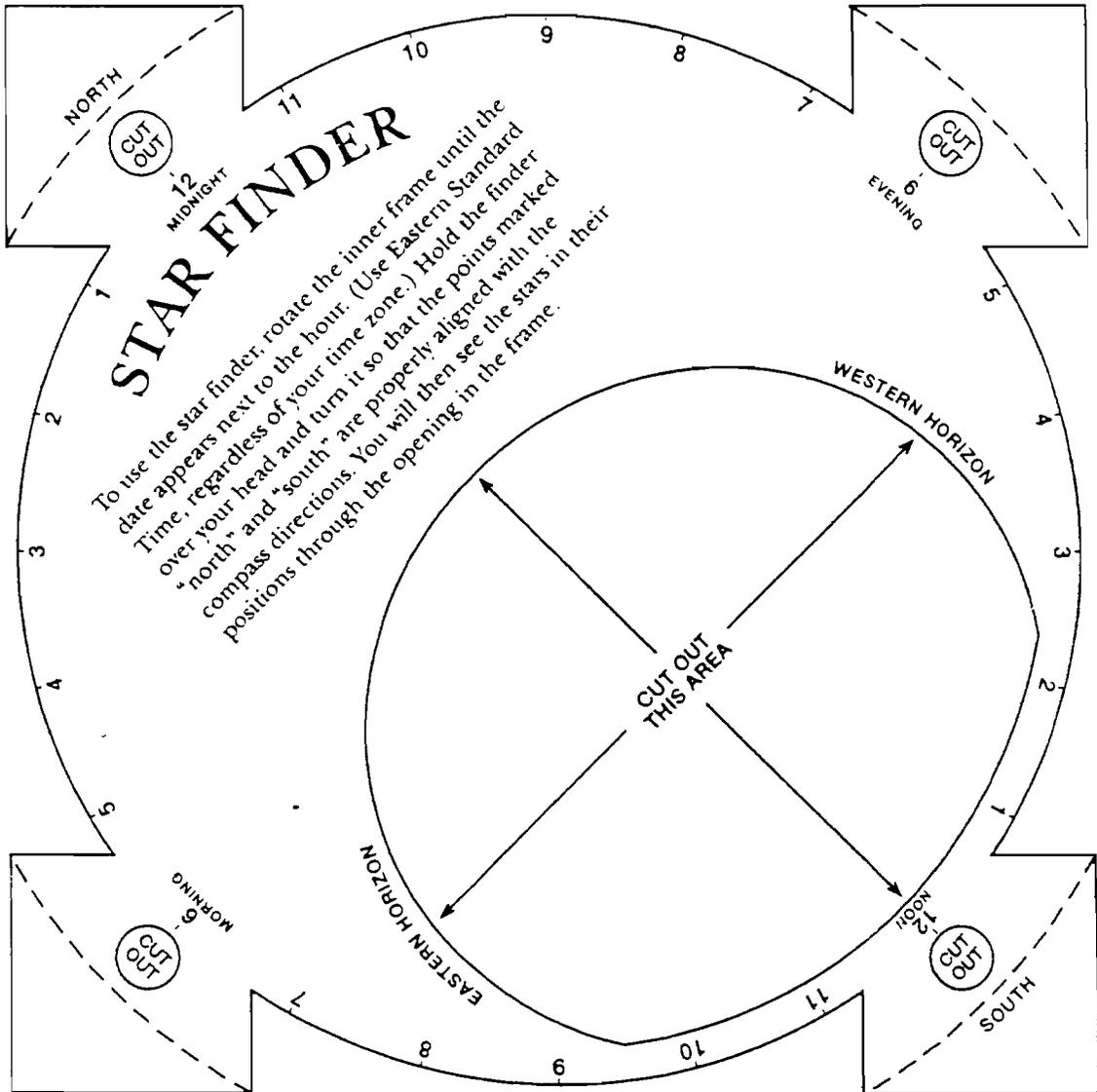
7. The Little Dipper is a mirrored and smaller version of the Big Dipper. It can be found by looking directly up from the two outermost stars which form the bowl on the Big Dipper. These two stars point us to Polaris, the North Star (indicating the North Pole), which is at the end of the Little Dipper's handle. (See picture on right above). Whenever you are facing Polaris, you are facing the north.



8. Another well-known constellation is Orion. Orion was an ancient Greek hunter and warrior and the constellation resembles this figure, with a club and a shield, and a sword dangling from his belt. The belt is usually the easiest part of Orion to spot, with three bright stars in a row.



Star Finder Frame



Star Map

