

FLASHLIGHT CONSTELLATIONS

THE STARS

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU LOOKED AT THE NIGHT STARS? NOT JUST BEAUTIFUL, STARS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HISTORY AND MYTHOLOGY. STAR PICTURES, OR CONSTELLATIONS, HAVE HELPED SAILORS TO NAVIGATE OCEANS AND STORYTELLERS TO CRAFT MYTHS. GATHER THE MATERIALS BELOW AND USE THE PROVIDED TEMPLATE TO OBSERVE HOW GROUPS OF STARS CAN FORM PICTURES.

YOU WILL NEED:

- A FLASHLIGHT WITH A ROUND OPENING FOR LIGHT
- SCISSORS
- CEREAL BOX
- GLUE
- PUSH PIN OR SOMETHING ELSE TO PIERCE THE PAPER

STEPS

**Read the constellation stories on the attached page. Which one is your favorite?
Follow the steps below to make your own constellations on your wall or ceiling.**

1

Cut out each of the circles showing the constellations. They are sized for either a 1 3/4 inch flashlight opening, or a 2 inch flashlight opening. You may need to cut a little bigger or smaller, just try not to cut away any of the constellation itself.

2

Glue the circles to the cereal box (any thin cardboard will work if you don't have a cereal box). This will help make them sturdier. Once they are dry, cut them out again.

3

Carefully use the push pin to pierce a hole at each star spot in the constellation. You might want to put another piece of cardboard underneath your circles first to protect your work surface. Make sure the hole pierces both the paper and the cereal box.

4

Place the circle inside the front of the flashlight so the light can shine through the pierced holes. Make sure the picture is facing the flashlight - this will make the image show correctly on the wall.

5

In a dark room, shine the flashlight on a wall or a ceiling to see the points of light creating the constellation shape.

Can you retell each constellation story as you shine the shape on the wall?

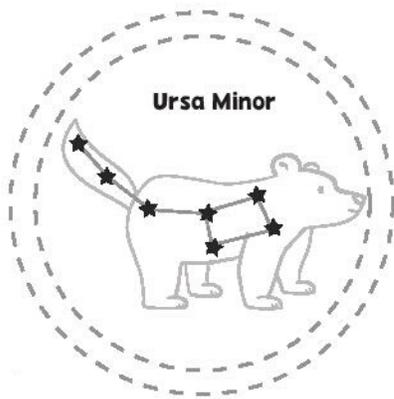
What other shapes or animals could each constellation represent?

Can you make up a new story to go with that constellation?

 **WATCH AN ORLA STAFF MEMBER DO THIS PROJECT AND TELL CONSTELLATION STORIES HERE: <https://youtu.be/actFEiXXvFg>**

Constellation templates, activity, and stories from:
<https://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/create-flashlight-constellations>

CONSTELLATIONS

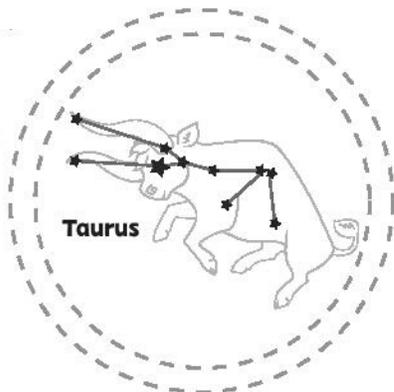
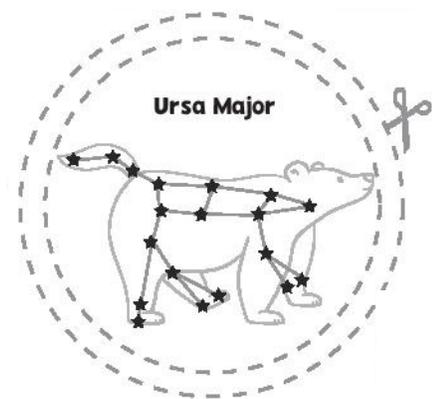


URSA MINOR

The story of Ursa Minor, or the Little Bear, comes from the Ancient Greeks. Arcas was a great hunter. One day while hunting in the woods, he came across a great bear. Little did he know that was actually his mother, Callisto, who was under a spell. Arcas was about to catch the great bear, but the Greek god Zeus, stopped him just in time and turned Arcas into a little bear so he could be with his mom. Zeus placed the two bears into the sky to keep them safe and protected.

URSA MAJOR

Ursa Major is also known as The Great Bear. Ancient Greeks tell the story about a beautiful girl named Callisto who was turned into a bear by a mean goddess. A tracker tried to catch the bear, but the Greek God Zeus saved Callisto by placing her up in the night sky where she was safe.



TAURUS THE BULL

The Ancient Greeks tell the story of a wild bull named Taurus who had a bad temper. One day he trampled a field of wild flowers and Persephone, the Goddess of Spring, got very sad. Taurus apologized and they soon became good friends. From then on, every spring, Persephone would ride on Taurus' back and the two of them would make the flowers bloom as they walked by.

LEO THE LION

In Greek myths, Leo the Lion lived outside an ancient city called Nemea. For many years, Leo would scoop up people from Nemea and no one would stop him. One day, Hercules went to stop the lion and won. Everyone who the lion had caught was set free. Zeus made Leo a constellation in the night sky to remind people of the story of Hercules and Leo.

