

## Constellations

**Anticipatory set:** The students will draw the night sky and write about what they have drawn. Read or watch [The Magic School Bus, Lost in Space](#).

**Direct Instruction:** Discuss constellations. Tell some of the stories and show some pictures. The websites <http://www.geocities.com/capecanaveral/launchpad/1364/constellations.html> and <http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~skywise/legends.html> are good places to begin.

**Cultural link:** The website <http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~skywise/legends.html> has Native American stories to go with the constellations.

### Activities:

**Materials:** Black paper, a pencil or pin, white crayons or chalk.

Students will make their own constellations by making pencil or pin holes in black paper. First they should design their constellation on another sheet of paper. They will need to decide where the stars go. Then they will need to use their pencils or pins to poke the holes in the black paper. They can use white chalk or crayons to connect their stars. This works best if they poke their pencils or pins through on the carpet. The students can show their constellations by holding their paper in front of a window and tell a story about it.

### Other Activities:

**Materials:** Toilet paper tubes, black paper, glue or tape, stars and a pin

Use a toilet paper roll to view the constellations. Cover one end with black paper, cover paper part of tube with back paper and decorate with stars. Poke holes with pin for constellations in the end of the tube. Label the name of the constellation on the side of the tube.

When making constellations you might want to have students make certain constellations and also make up their own.

**Teacher Activities:** Create a classroom sky on the ceiling with constellations made with glow in the dark stars.

**Individual Journal Assignment:** The students will write about their favorite story and constellation that they heard from someone today.

**Homelink:** observe the night sky tonight and draw some of the constellations that you see.