

Lesson 1 - Space

Constellations



Curriculum Links

Scotland

Space
SCN-06

UK

introduced to a model of the sun and Earth that enables them to explain day and night. Pupils should learn that the sun is a star at the centre of our solar system and that it has 8 planets

Key Concept

I can name and identify star constellations

Background

Space is so often taught indoors, but why not take learning outside. This sequence has been created in winter - when we see the night sky earlier and the moon can be visible during the day.

The lessons here can be delivered in any order, pick and mix what suits your needs and class interests.

Here, we have a short series of lessons which explore this topic.

- Create the constellations
- Measure the strength of the sun
- Measure the size of the sun, moon and planets
- Create the solar system
- Make a rocket
- Record a moon diary

Resources

- worksheet with constellations
- chalk
- loose materials

Wider Skills

- problem solving
- identification skills
- observation skills

Lesson

In this lesson we explore some of the better-known star constellations. It would be impossible to acquaint the children with all, so we focus on the ones they may know. While we cannot spend an evening wrapped up outside watching the constellations, we can still teach about them and support this with homework.

Explore what constellations are - officially recognised patterns in the night sky that help astronomers divide the sky into sections. You can view them on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zpnhs7>

Explain to the children that we will create constellations outside; they need to think carefully about where they place their stones/ loose materials to represent the stars. Or, if you do not have loose materials, you may just choose to use chalk. Have children create their art work of constellations.

This also creates stimulating conversations at break times for other classes.

You can also take photos for a stimulating wall display

Older Classes

Asterisms are easily recognisable patterns of stars that are usually fairly easy to spot. Can you explore these as well?

Have the children walk around and try to identify each others constellations and asterisms.

Once identified they should then label their art work

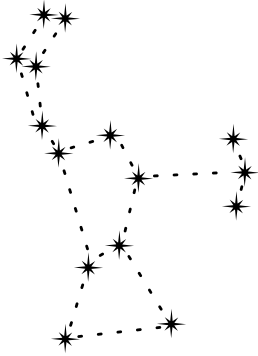
Younger Classes

Can they match their pattern with someone elses?

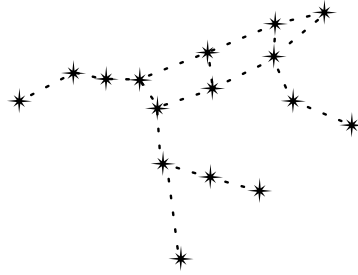
Next Steps or Links

The website <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zpnhs7> has great explanations for homework

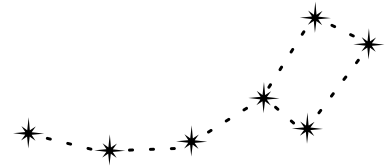
The Constellations



Orion



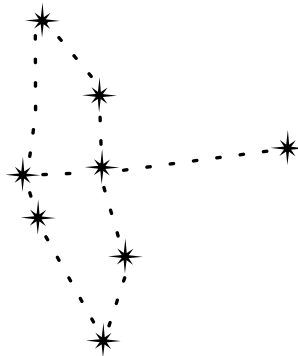
Ursa Major



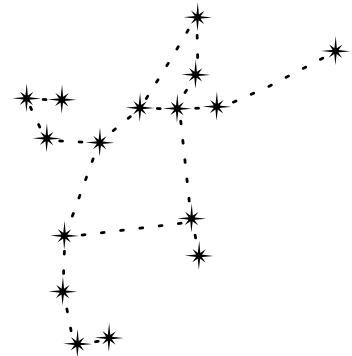
Ursa Minor



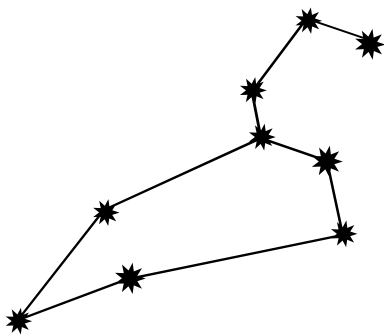
Cassiopeia



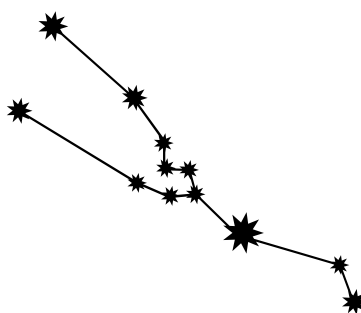
Cygnus



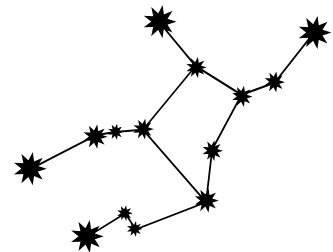
Perseus



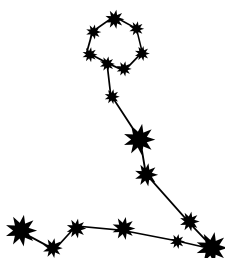
Leo



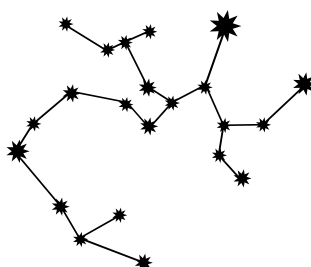
Taurus



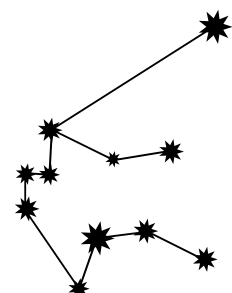
Virgo



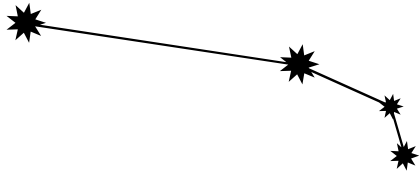
Pieces



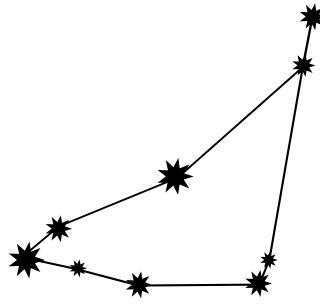
Sagittarius



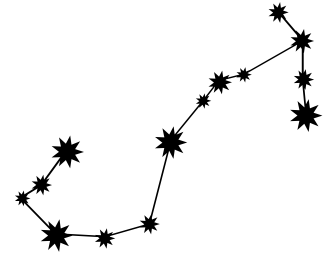
Acquarius



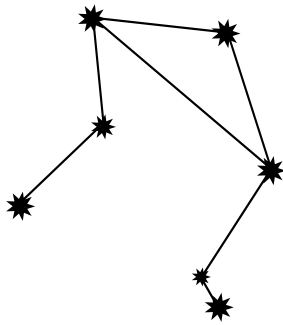
Aries



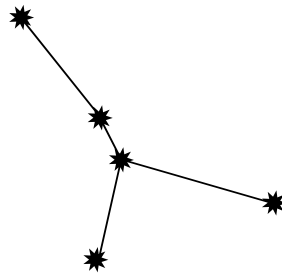
Capricorn



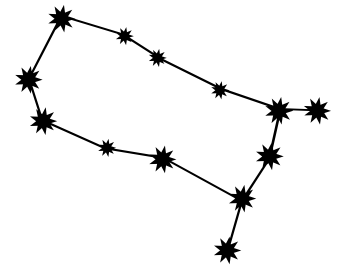
Scorpio



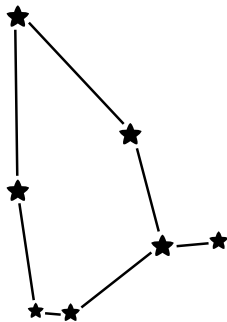
Libra



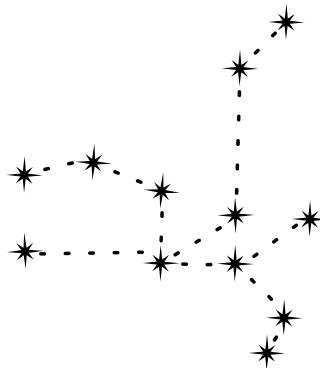
Cancer



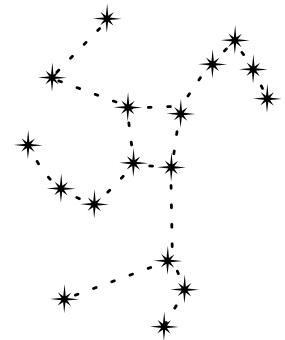
Gemini



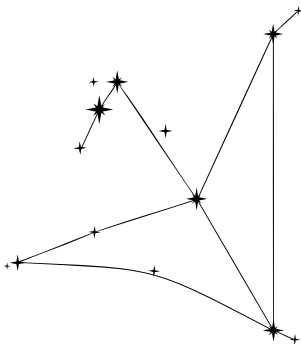
Cepheus



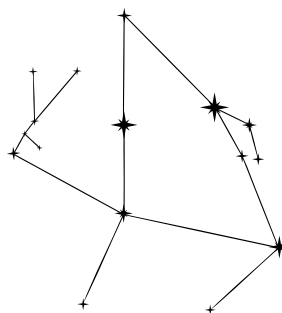
Andromeda



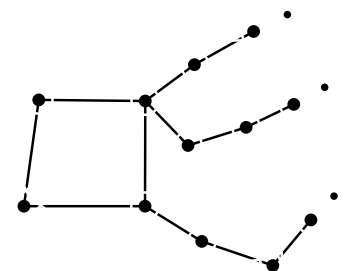
Hercules



Aquila



Auriga



Pegasus