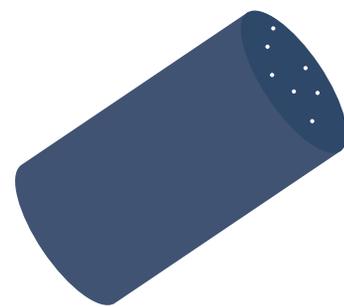


Constellation Tubes



Activity Description

You can create your very own constellation! Constellation tubes allow you to see what your unique constellation would look like if you were looking through a telescope.

On Earth, we can see groups of stars that make an outline or a picture. Typically, they make a picture of an animal, object, or mythological person or creature. These groups of stars are called constellations.

While there are many constellations in the sky, some constellations are only visible during certain times of the year.

Currently, there are 88 modern constellations in the sky as established by the International Astronomical Union. It is important to note that many people throughout history have identified and named constellations that represent their lore, traditions, and culture.

Procedure

1. Cut aluminum foil or black construction paper into a square that will fit over one open side of your constellation tube.
2. Place the square of aluminum foil or construction paper over one open side and use a rubber band or tape to secure it in place.
3. Use a pushpin or toothpick to create a constellation, by poking holes into the

Materials

- Paper towel or toilet paper tube
- Aluminum foil or black construction paper
- Pushpin or toothpick
- Rubber band or tape

Preparation and Safety

Pushpins can be sharp, use caution when creating your constellation tube.

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Procedure (continued)

aluminum foil or construction paper. Be gentle so you do not tear the paper or foil. You can create your own unique constellation or try to recreate an existing constellation.

4. Once you have completed your constellation, you can look through your constellation tube to see what your constellation would look like if you were looking through a telescope. You could also try shining a light through your constellation tube and see if you can project your constellation onto a wall.

Extensions or Adaptations

- Many constellations represent a person, animal, or object from a story or myth. Try creating a story for your constellation!
- Explore the different stories behind the 88 modern constellations.
- Historic star charts or constellation cards feature star group outlines and with detailed illustrations to help the reader imagine how the stars make the picture. Try drawing an illustration to go along with your constellation.

Constellation Tubes Video

[bitesizeactivities: Constellation Tubes by Museum of Life and Science](#)