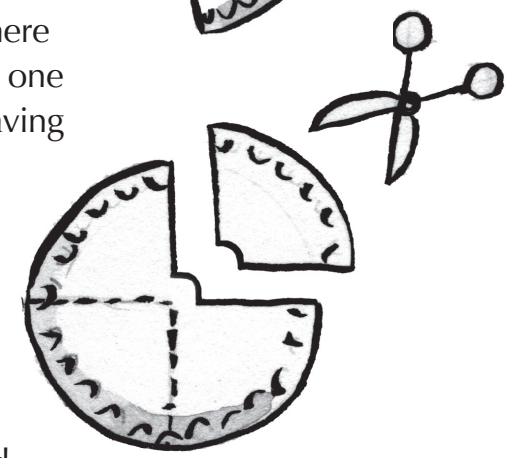
ACTIVITY: **Night Watch**

SUPPLIES

- 2 thin, 9-inch paper plates (23 centimeters)
- scissors
- black pen
- ruler
- pencil
- pin
- paper fastener
- blue and yellow highlighters

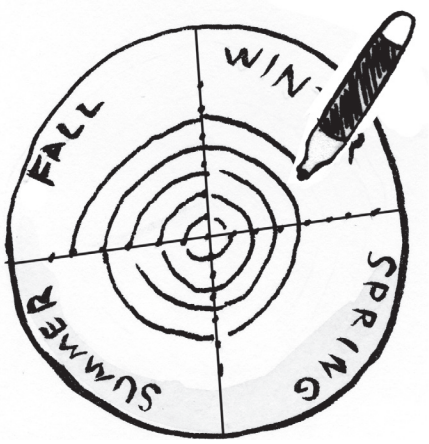
When does your night start? It can change every season. One way to keep track is to make your own night watch.

1 Fold both plates in half. Fold them in half again. Each plate should look like a big piece of pie.



2 Open up each plate. There are four equal sections. Cut one section out of one plate, leaving the inside corner uncut. This is your window plate. Set it aside.

3 Using the black pen, trace the section lines on the uncut plate. At the outer edge, label each section with the name of one season: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall. This is your record plate. You will record what you learn about night science on this plate.



4 Put the ruler along one dark line. Starting at the center, make a little pencil dot every ¼ inch all the way across (every ½ centimeter). Repeat along the other dark lines. Connect the dots to make circles around the plate.

5 Use the pin to poke a hole through the center of each plate. Put the window plate on top. Push the paper fastener through the holes to connect the plates.

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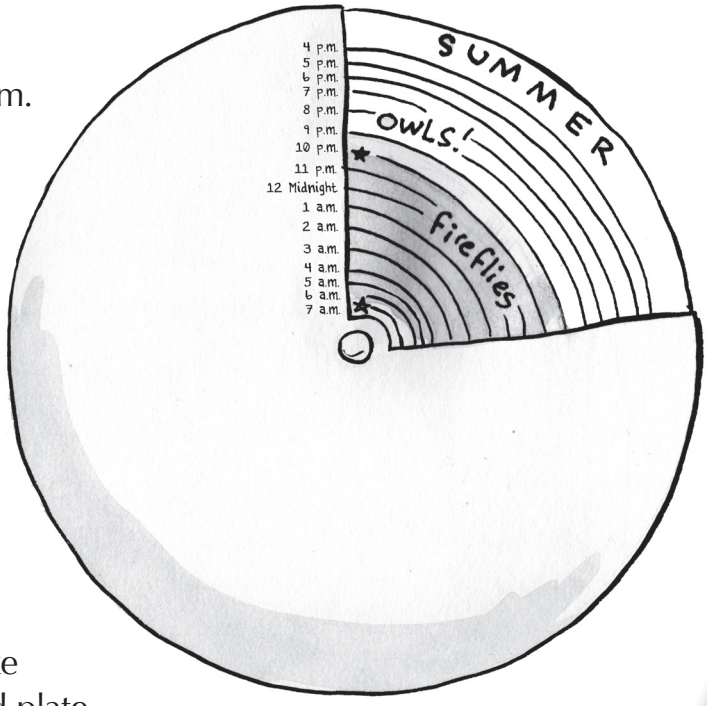
6 On the window plate, write 7 a.m. by the line closest to the center of the record plate. Write 6 a.m. by the next line out, then 5 a.m., 4 a.m., 3 a.m., 2 a.m., 1 a.m., 12 midnight, 11 p.m., 10 p.m., 9 p.m., 8 p.m., 7 p.m., 6 p.m., 5 p.m., 4 p.m. You can add more time circles if you live near the North or South Pole.



7 Dial the window plate so the current season is showing. Look at a clock when the sun is setting. Make a small star on the line on the record plate that matches that time. In the morning, look at a clock when the sun is rising. Make a small star on the line on the record plate that matches that time. Color the lines between the two stars with the blue highlighter. Color the lines above and below the stars with the yellow highlighter. Do this at least once every season.

WORDS TO KNOW

meteor: the streak of light when a small rock or piece of dust burns up as it enters the earth's atmosphere. We see it as a shooting star.

8 Use your night watch to help you remember when to listen for owls, look for fireflies, watch a **meteor** shower, or smell night plants blooming. Add notes between the lines or on the back recording the things you do and learn about night.

CLASSROOM CONNECTION: Share your night watch with your classmates. Find out if your friends are noticing the same or different things as you are at night.