

Activity Time!

Get to Know the Constellations

There are dozens of constellations in the night sky. Some of them are very recognizable once you learn what they look like.

WHAT YOU NEED

sidewalk chalk, somewhere to draw, 10–20 small rocks, information (and pictures) about constellations

WHAT YOU DO

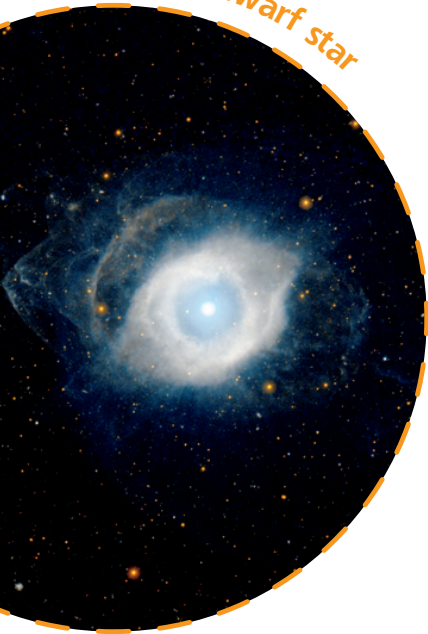
Begin with research about constellations. Find one you like and learn the story behind it.

Take a picture of your constellation outside with you. On the ground, position your rocks as though they were the stars in your constellation. Use the chalk to connect the stars so you have a sidewalk constellation. Label it.

Once you know a few constellations, go outside on a clear night. Can you find your constellation? Was it easier or harder than you thought it might be? You may want to record where you see your constellation in the sky at different times and in different seasons.

Team up with a friend or family member and share your constellations. You can tell the stories behind them.

A white dwarf star



credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech