

Post Activity

Assessment	Activity
Cross-curricular	Language Arts

Big Ideas

50 minutes

The earth is part of a larger system.

Specific Expectations

Use appropriate science and technology vocabulary, in oral and written communications

Use a variety of forms to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes

Describe the effects of the relative positions and motions of the earth, moon, and sun

Description

After exploring a few cultures different constellations students will have the chance to create their own constellation and legend or story to accompany it.

Materials

- Computer with Stellarium planetarium software downloaded (FREE)
- Print out of the night sky in your area
- White pencil crayon
- Black cardstock or cardboard
- 1 sharp, pointy object such as a nail
- 1 bright flashlight (with a large head)
- Tape or rubber bands
- Glue and Scissors

Safety Notes

- Be careful when using sharp or piercing objects such as scissors, nails, or needles

Introduction

1. Students should know about the motion of the earth and other celestial bodies belonging to our solar system.
2. Students will have learned about the Anshinabee constellations from the Under the Same Stars Presentation
3. Discuss with students how people make sense of new information. Humans base the interpretation of new information on their cultural and historical location, and this can create a variety of perceived truths.

Action

Part 1 – Constellations from around the world

Using Stellarium, have the students explore constellations from one or two other cultures. They will have seen Anishinabee and the western mythologies through the presentation.

Ask the students why they think different peoples see different patterns in the stars.

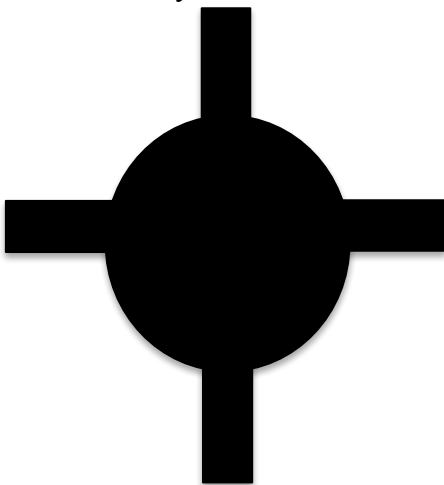
Part 2 – Create your own constellations

Talk about the structure of the short story (or myth/fable) as per the Language Curriculum of Ontario. They usually contain a moral or life lesson to be learned, and needs to be brief.

Provide each student with a print out of the night sky in your area with no constellation or star markings. The summer night sky, facing south, is usually best Due to the prominence of Orion. You can do this using Stellarium. Take a screen shot when a good patch of night sky is visible with all the labels turned off.

Give each student a piece of black cardstock pre-cut into the shape below.

Have the students trace the circular part of their black card stock onto the print out of the night sky in the area they would like to make their constellation.



Cut out the area they traced and glue it to the card stock over the circular part.

Have the students create their constellation; they should trace in white pencil crayon the lines between stars.

Have the students use scissors or another similar sharp object to create holes over the stars that are a part of their constellation.

Students will now create the story that goes with their constellation.

Students will place their constellation over the front of the flashlight, securing it with elastic bands and share with the class. Make sure it is dark enough for the students to see the constellation on a wall or the ceiling while the students share their stories.