

Star Viewing A Take-Home Activity

On a dark night you and your child can view the sky and identify constellations

What You Need:

- ❖ Clear, dark viewing sky
- ❖ Sky chart for your location
(<http://skytonight.com/observing/skychart/3308911.html>)
- ❖ Binoculars or a telescope
- ❖ Mosquito repellent
- ❖ Flashlight
- ❖ Snacks

What to Do:

Head outside on a clear night and see if you can identify some of the constellations you learned!

Parent Prompts:

Can the children find Polaris?

Draco the dragon?

Lyra, the lyre?

Pegasus, the winged horse?

Orion, the great hunter?

What about other constellations?

A sky chart for your local area will display a night sky view, as observed with the unaided eye. Sky and Telescope offers an overview of viewing highlights (<http://skytonight.com/observing/ataglance>) and an interactive Sky Chart (<http://skytonight.com/observing/skychart/3308911.html>) that can be generated and printed easily using a local zip code.

Adapted from: <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/skytellers/stars/activities/viewing.shtml>