

Sky Wheel

What do you see in the night sky? Stars! Do you know that for a very long time, people have made pictures out of the stars in the sky? There are now 88 pictures or constellations in our sky! How many do you think you can find?

You won't be able to all of the constellations at one time; but during the year, as our Earth orbits the Sun, we see different parts of space – and different constellations.

Your child will create a Sky Wheel to help them find the constellations in the sky.

What You Need:

- ❖ Sky Wheel templates (3) on cardstock from <http://www.lhs.berkeley.edu/starclock/skywheel.htm>
- ❖ Scissors
- ❖ Tape

What to Do:

- ❖ Cut out and assemble the Sky Wheel according to instructions.
- ❖ Rotate the Star Wheel in the Star Holder until your desired time of night lines up with the desired date.
- ❖ Pick a horizon (North, South, East, or West) and hold the Sky Wheel and holder so that the horizon's name is right-side up. Look at the constellations in the area just above that horizon. These are the stars and constellations you will see outside facing that direction!

Parent Prompts:

What constellations did you find?

What happens to the constellations when you change the time or date?
(They move—they change positions)

Are the same constellations up every night?
(No, many constellations only appear during certain times of the year)