

Star Mapping Challenge

Description

Become a backyard astronomer and explore the night sky like never before! With just a star map, a pencil, and a flashlight, you can identify real constellations and even make your own.

What You Will Need

- A printed star map
- Pencil or pen
- Small flashlight (use red paper over the light to keep your eyes adjusted to the dark)
- A clear night sky
- A comfortable place to sit or lie down

Instructions

1. Print the star map and go outside on a clear night when you can see lots of stars.
2. Give your eyes about 10 minutes to adjust to the darkness.
3. Use your flashlight carefully and begin identifying well-known constellations such as Orion the Hunter or the Big Dipper.
4. On your printed map, draw the stars you see in the sky.
5. Connect the dots to show the shapes of the constellations you find.
6. Give your own names to new shapes you create, or write the real names if you know them.
7. Share your discoveries with a friend, sibling, or parent. You are now a stargazer!

Fun Fact

The Big Dipper is not a constellation by itself - it is part of a larger constellation called Ursa Major, or the

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Great Bear!

Safety Tip

Always stargaze from a safe location away from cars or roads. Make sure an adult knows where you are.