

Stargazing

Extend the Conversation

- ❖ Check out the sky together, make a list of what you see.
- ❖ Talk about why the stars are easier to see some days better than others. What can you do to see them better?
- ❖ Using your body to make the shapes of the constellations is fun! Can you figure out how to move your body to look like other things? How can you make it look like the shape of an animal? What you use a piece of furniture as a prop?

PBS Resources

What is a Constellation? Watch this Ready Jet Go! video to find out! → t.ly/rNsL



Check out some other constellations with this video:
Go Beyond: Ursa Minor, Little Dipper, "The Little Bear" | Young Exporters

→ t.ly/LC4r

After you're done watching these videos, make some constellations of your own using a flashlight! See attached pages for instructions or visit:

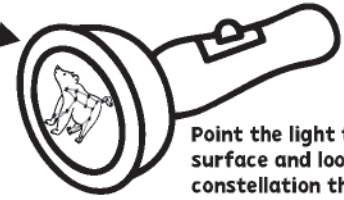
pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/create-flashlight-constellations



Flashlight Constellations

A constellation is a series of stars that form a picture in the sky. Astronomers use it today to help pinpoint the locations of other stars. Ask an adult to help cut out the four constellations and punch small holes on each star. These points are the locations of the stars in each constellation.

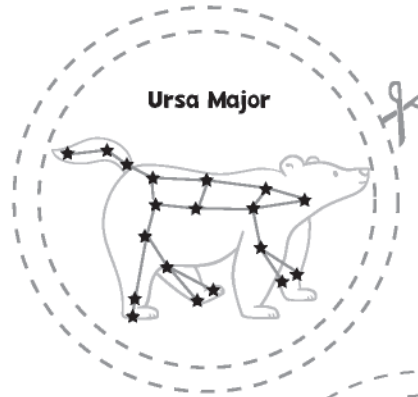
Choose the size circle that fits on your flashlight lens, cutting along the inner or outer dashed circle. Flip the picture so it's facing the flashlight.



Point the light to a dark surface and look at the constellation that shines through. One at a time, identify each constellation and talk about how you identified them.

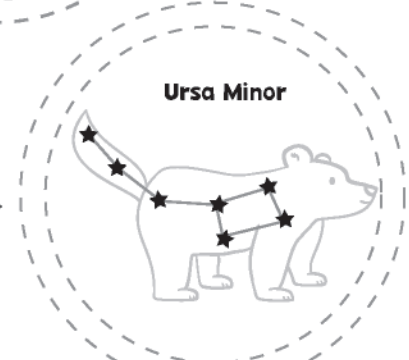
URSA MAJOR

Ursa Major is also known as The Great Bear. Ancient Greeks tell the story about a beautiful girl named Callisto who was turned into a bear by a mean goddess. A tracker tried to catch the bear, but the Greek God Zeus saved Callisto by placing her up in the night sky where she was safe.



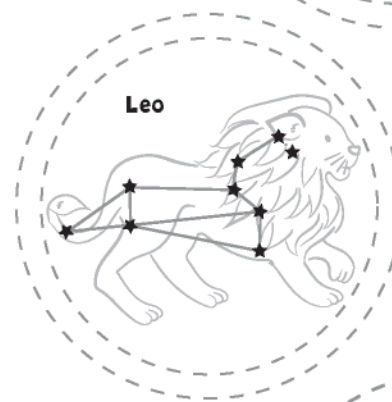
URSA MINOR

The story of Ursa Minor, or The Little Bear, comes from the Ancient Greeks. Arcas was a great hunter. One day while hunting in the woods, he came across a great bear. Little did he know that was actually his mother, Callisto, who was under a spell. Arcas was about to catch the great bear, but the Greek god Zeus, stopped him just in time and turned Arcas into a little bear so he could be with his mom. Zeus placed the two bears into the sky to keep them safe and protected.



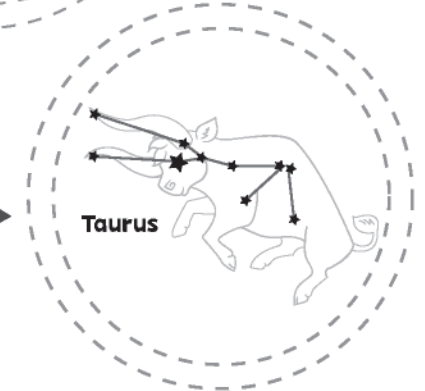
LEO THE LION

In Greek myths, Leo the Lion lived outside an ancient city called Nemea. For many years, Leo would scoop up people from Nemea and no one would stop him. One day, Hercules went to stop the lion and won. Everyone who the lion had caught was set free. Zeus made Leo a constellation in the night sky to remind people of the story of Hercules and Leo.



TAURUS THE BULL

The Ancient Greeks tell the story of a wild bull named Taurus who had a bad temper. One day he trampled a field of wild flowers and Persephone, the Goddess of Spring, got very sad. Taurus apologized and they soon became good friends. From then on, every spring, Persephone would ride on Taurus' back and the two of them would make the flowers bloom as they walked by.



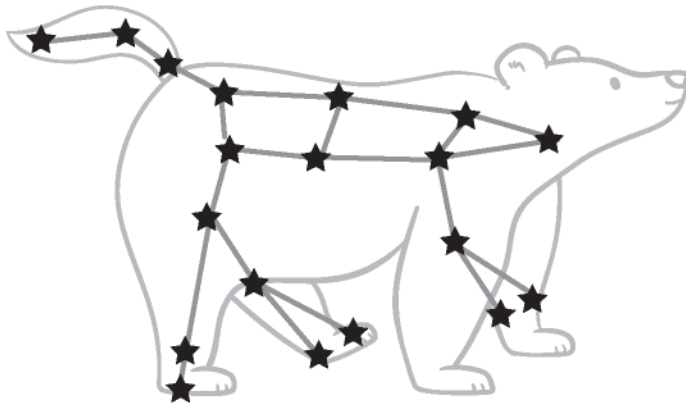


Flashlight Constellations

Constellation Key

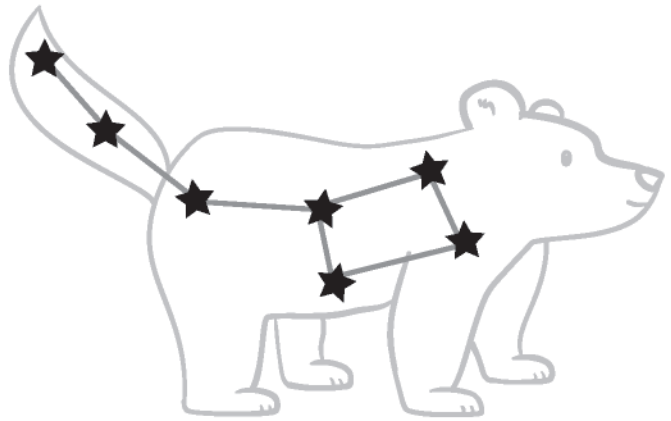
URSA MAJOR

The Great Bear



URSA MINOR

The Little Bear



LEO

The Lion



TAURUS

The Bull

