

Make a Map of the Night Sky!

Photo Credit: Clipart.com



INTRODUCTION

In this part of the lesson, you have the chance to observe the night sky with the help of a map of the night sky that you make yourself! Follow the directions on this sheet to help you make your map.

Directions

1. Cut out the map of the night sky, which has constellations on it. You will be left with an oval map of the night sky.
2. The holder for your map has the months and days written on it. Cut out the oval in the middle. Be sure to leave the rectangle on the bottom.
3. Fold the rectangle back, so it is hidden in the back and staple it down where there are white markings.
4. Now slip the circle into the pocket in the back so that the map shows through the “window.”
5. Line up today’s date with 7 pm. Now you are ready to do a real nighttime star search!
6. Write below three constellations that you can try to spot tonight.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
7. Be sure to write down your observations after you go in search of constellations.

Tips for Star Searching

- Star searching is best done away from city lights. You may want to shield your eyes from any nearby lights so you can see the stars better.
- Dress for the weather.
- Bring your Map of the Night Sky and a flashlight so that you can look at the map.
- Remember that Lake Michigan is to the EAST of Evanston. This will help you determine your directions when using your Star Map.
- Late summer or winter evenings may allow you to see the Milky Way—our galaxy of about 200 billion stars that looks like a “river” or “band” of stars in the night sky.
- Look for any other objects in the night sky that we have discussed in class (planets, meteors, the moon).

HOMEWORK: Use your Map of the Night Sky to observe the stars at night. Record the date, time, and place along with any constellations you observed.

My Observations

Date:

Time:

Place:

Constellations I observed:

Draw a picture of each of the constellations you observed:

Questions:

1. If you were to view the night sky in June, how would the constellations you observed tonight have moved/changed?

2. Explain WHY these changes occur.