



Adventures in STEAM

Explore science, technology, engineering, arts, and math in a 30 minute program! Each session focuses on a specific aspect of STEAM.

2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month
4:00-4:30 pm

Registered





Adventures in STEAM

Constellations

• Have you ever played connect the dots with stars? Ancient humans did too! The patterns they traced in the stars are called constellations. They told stories about these figures and could even use the patterns in the night sky to tell where they are!

Activity: make a star chart

Supplies:

- Constellation patterns (we used free star print outs from crayola)
- Black construction paper
- Thin poking tool (I made the original holes with a pin; then had the children use plastic knitting needles, but you could also use a pencil/toothpick/etc.)
- Flashlight

Steps:

- Tape the constellation chart onto the construction paper
- Poke holes in the stars
- Remove the constellation chart
- Turn off the lights and use the flashlight to make the constellations appear on a wall
- Bonus: connect the dots on the star charts to see the figures

Books read in Preschool STEAM:

- Star Stuff by Rand Burkert and illustrated by Chris Raschka
- Constellations: a glow-in-the-dark guide to the night sky by Chris Sasaki

Further learning: Look up into the night sky. How many constellations can you see? Make your own star chart based on the patterns in the sky. If you do this once each season, you'll be able to see the constellations move!

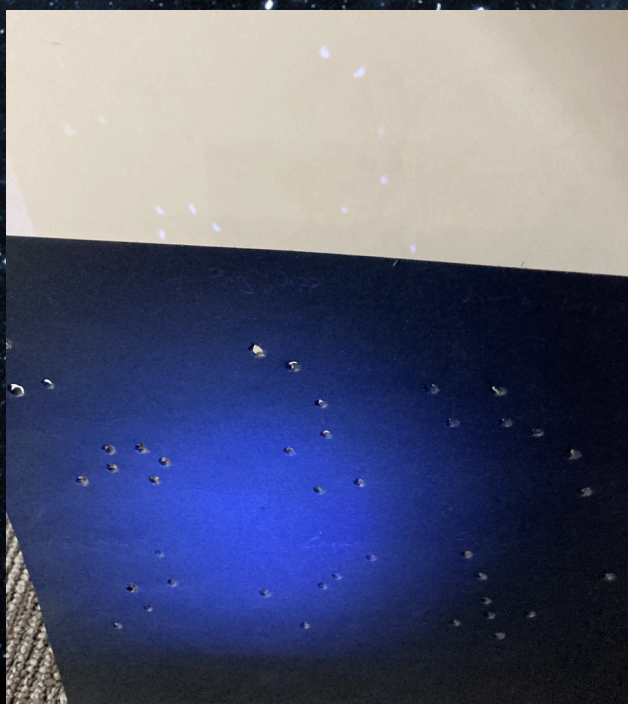
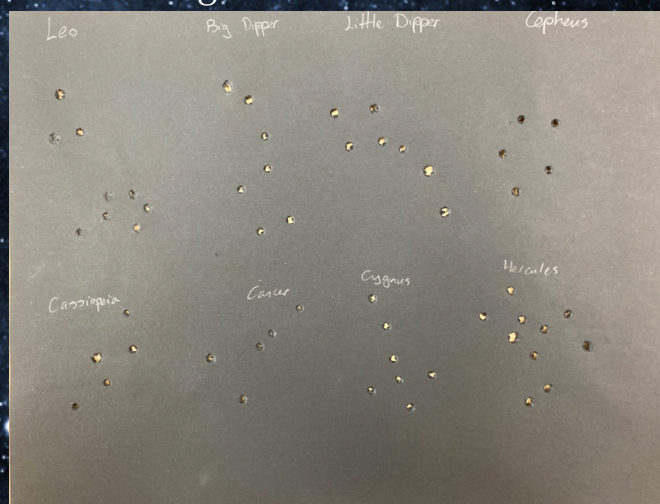
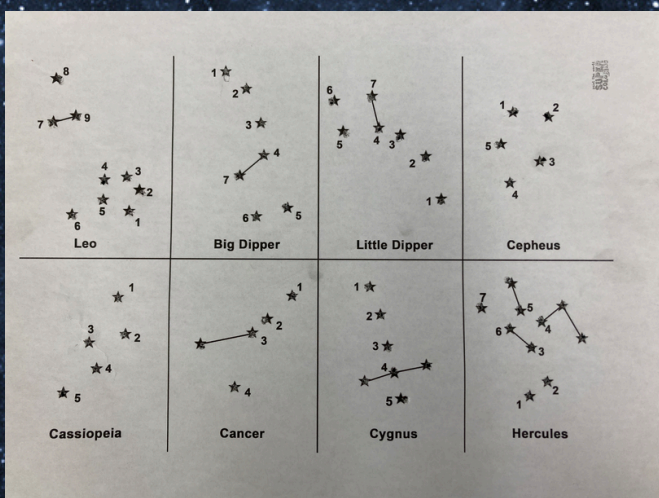




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Stars and Stories

Every culture on earth has stories about the stars. More than just lights in the sky, and a way to guide our paths, stars offered a chance to truly let our imaginations soar!

Greek and Roman Mythology

- Many European names for constellations come from Greek and Roman myths

Indigenous

- The sky is home to spirits and ancestors, tales that pass down wisdom. There is a close link between dreams and the sky.
 - Learn about the Cree Stars at <https://pinnguaq.com/stories/ininiw-acakosuk-the-cree-stars/> and <http://judy-volker.com/StarLore/Myths/Cree.html>
 - Wilfred Buck is a member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation and a science facilitator at Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre
 - Tipiskawi Kisik: Night Sky Star Stories
 - Annette S. Lee has Lakota descent from the Wanbli Luta family and is the director of Native Skywatchers, a program that maps and shares Indigenous star knowledge through collaboration with astronomers and elders

Here are some books inspired by the stars you can find at Grande Prairie Public Library or can be brought in from other libraries:

- Turtle Island: The Story of North America's First People by Eldon Yellowhorn (J 970.004 YEL)
- Starcrossed by Julia Denos (E DEN)
 - A tale of friendship inspired by the stars Eridani and Acamar, a pair of binary stars in the Eridanus constellation
- tipiskawi kisik: night sky star stories by Wilfred Buck
- Star Stories: constellation tales from around the world by Anita Ganeri
- A Song of Stars: An Asian Legend by Tom Birdseye