

Astronomy

Solar System – Stars

Activity – Constellations in the Sky

Materials:

A tray containing:

- (1) Set of Constellation Cards
- (1) Set of Star Shapes (9 stars needed)

- Black Floor rug/mat - measuring at least 36” x 36” (I use a piece of black felt or black poster board)

Preparation:

Teacher needs to print/copy out the star shape pattern following this presentation.

Next, the teacher should cut the pattern along the dotted line.

Star shape needs to be cut out of yellow/gold paper nine times.

General Presentation:

1. Invite the child or group of children.
2. Carry the black floor rug/mat in the way shown before over to an empty place on the floor.
3. Go over to where the tray containing the **Constellation Cards** and the **Star Shapes** are kept.
4. The teacher should name the material for the child, **“Constellation Cards and Stars”**.
5. Invite the child to carry the tray over to the rug.
6. Place the tray directly to the top left hand side of the rug (the tray should not be on the rug).
7. Take the **Constellation Cards** and place them directly to the bottom left hand side of the rug (the cards should not be on the rug). The cards should be in a pile with faces showing.
8. Take the **Star Shapes** and place them one at a time below the rug in a horizontal line.
9. Now, pick-up the first card from the deck and pause to study it for a few moments.
10. Place the card directly on the floor below the row of **Star Shapes** (Should be underneath the first **Star Shape**).

11. Point to the **Constellation Card** and say, “This is a group of **Stars** that make up a **Constellation**.”
12. Point to the label/words at the bottom of the **Constellation Card** and say, “This **Constellation** is call (name of **Constellation**).”
13. The teacher should say, “I am going to make this group of **Stars**, called a **Constellation** in the **Sky** (point to the black fabric). I am going to make the **Constellation** called (name of **Constellation**).”
14. Point to the first **Star** (left to right - top to bottom) that makes up the **Constellation** on the card.
15. Pick up the first **Star** on the left and place it on the piece of black rug/mat (**Sky**) and say, “I am placing this **Star** in the **Sky** in the same place that it is on the **Constellation** card.”
16. Point to the **Star** on the card and then point to the **Star** you have just placed on the rug/mat.
17. Point to the next **Star** (left to right - top to bottom) that makes up the **Constellation** on the card.
18. Pick up the next **Star** (first one on the left) and place it on the piece of black rug/mat (**Sky**) and say, “I am placing this **Star** in the **Sky** in the same place that it is on the **Constellation** card.”
19. Point to the **Star** on the card and then point to the **Star** you have just placed on the rug/mat.
20. Continue one **Star** at a time, until your **Constellation** is built.
21. When you are finished, stop and admire your work.
22. The teacher should point to the label/words underneath the card and read the name of the **Constellation**.
23. The teacher should point to the **Constellation** she has made of **Stars** and say, “**I have just made a Constellation in the Sky!**”
This is the Constellation called (name of Constellation)!”
24. The teacher should take the **Constellation** card and place it face side down directly beneath the deck of cards that haven’t been used yet.
25. The teacher should take the **Stars**, one at a time (left to right - top to bottom), and place them back to their places underneath the rug/mat.
26. Continue with the remaining cards removing the top card from deck in turn.
27. When you are finished “**Making Constellations in the Sky**”, return the deck of cards to the tray.
28. Return the **Stars** to the tray removing them one at a time (left to right).
29. Replace the tray to where it belongs.
30. Replace your rug/mat to where it belongs.
31. Invite the children to take a turn at “**Making Constellations in the Sky!**”

Variations and Extensions:

1. If children are young, cut down in the number of **Constellation Cards** that you introduce to begin with.
2. 3 Period Lessons on the names of the **Constellations**.
3. Make a Booklet or Wall Chart.
4. Read Books about the **Constellations**.
5. **Star** art projects.
6. Sing songs about the **Stars**.
7. Visit a Planetarium and Look at the **Stars!**

Points of Interest:

1. Different shapes of **Stars**
2. How you have to use your imagination to see the figures the **Stars** make when they are grouped together.

Control of Error:

1. The teacher has explained the activity in a way that the children understand it. This is an abstract idea and very young children will be able to “do” the activity but will not understand it until they are a little older.

Aims:

To help children experience awareness that **certain groups of Stars are called Constellations and those groups have specific names.**

Age:

2 ½ and up

Language:

Star, Constellation, names of the constellations, etc.

Trace this star and cut it out. Use the cut out star as a pattern. Make 9 stars out of yellow/gold paper.

