

EXPLORE THE NIGHT SKY

What do I need?



a friend to go star-gazing with



binoculars, a telescope
OR just your eyes



a star finder - see instructions
and template below!

Why go star gazing?

- Star gazing is a great way to unplug and experience the universe that surrounds us
- It's inspiring and calming ALL year round
- It's an activity that people of all ages can enjoy - for free
- What you see is always changing!

Apps



Star Walk 2

- FREE - in app ads.
- Additional content - for a fee of \$8.49
- To start 'take a tour' to learn about the app's features

Star Chart

- FREE
- To start - find the user manual within the app
- Point your phone or tablet up to the sky and this app will interpret what you see

Sky View Lite

- FREE
- Set reminders for celestial events
- WiFi not required

RESOURCES

Websites

canada.ca/en/space-agency.html
stellarium-web.org
spaceplace.nasa.gov

Books & Field Guides

National Geographic
Pocket Guide – Night Sky of N. America

The Backyard Astronomer's Guide
(Dickinson & Dyer)

What We See in the Stars: An Illustrated
Tour of the Night Sky (Oseid)

Ontario Hot Spots

Charleston Lake Provincial Park
Torrance Barrens Dark Sky Preserve
- Muskoka
Gordon's Park Dark Sky Preserve
- Manitoulin Island



Canadian Space Agency's STAR FINDER - designed for 45° latitude



You'll Need:

- 1 paper fastener
- scissors & tape
- 2 pieces of thick white paper & 1 page acetate paper
- colour printer



Then You'll:

Print out, in colour, pages 2 and 3 of this document

Cut out both circles exactly where indicated AND the viewing hole

Cut a circle slightly bigger than viewing hole from acetate and tape
behind the purple viewfinder to cover viewing hole

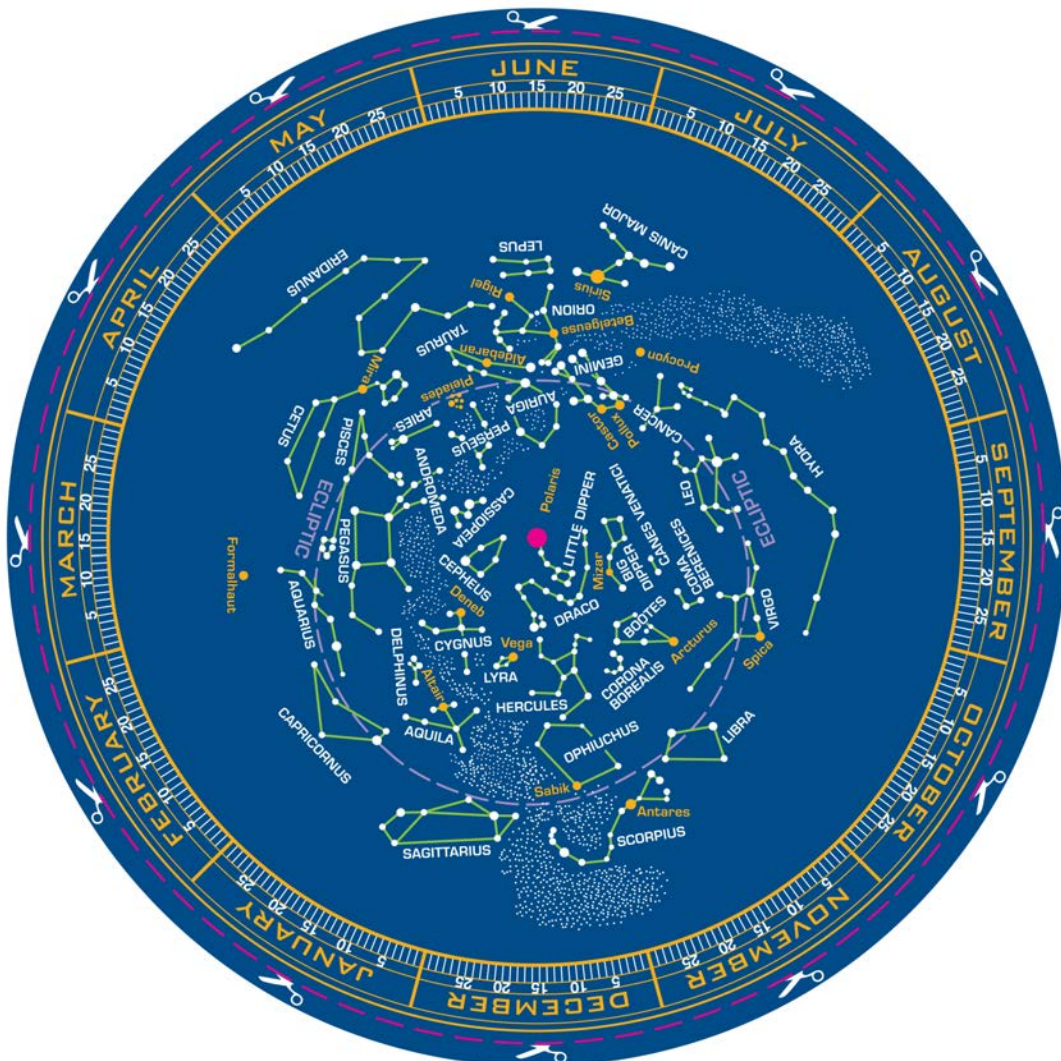
Place the purple view-finder on top of the blue star chart

Using the paper fastener, pierce a hole in the middle of both circles
(acetate- top/paper - bottom) and split the fastener on the back to
join the two pieces

How to Use it ?



- Go outside on a clear night to a dark spot where you can see the horizon - if possible
- Align today's date and time on the wheel and this will show you the constellations visible at that time of the year
- To orient yourself properly, start by turning your body to the western horizon - where did the sun just go down? Then - turn the whole chart in your hands, so that the word WEST is closest to you
- In the view finder will be the constellations visible to you in relation to the direction you are currently facing - west
- The middle of the star finder, under the the paper fastener, represents the zenith - which is the centre of the sky, above where you are standing
- To begin, start looking for a constellation you know



TOP TIPS for Beginner Star Gazers

- Move away from city lights
- Find a clear spot where you can see as close to the horizon as possible
- Check the weather forecast
- Get in touch with your local astronomy club
- Use your eyes, binoculars or telescopes
- Look for stars, shooting stars, constellations, the milky way, the moon and planets
- Make note of upcoming forecasts for meteor showers, eclipses or the northern lights!

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Show us your learning in-action!



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