STARS and CONSTELLATIONS

What do I need to make a constellation?

- toothpicks
- white mini marshmallows
- black paper

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!

What is a Star?

- Stars are giant, glowing balls of gases - found in massive groups called galaxies
- The sun and it's solar system (including Earth), are part of the Milky Way galaxy. That galaxy alone contains hundreds of BILLIONS of stars. There are many billions of galaxies in the universe!

What is a Constellation?

- A constellation is a group of stars which make up an imaginary outline or pattern in the night sky (the celestial sphere)
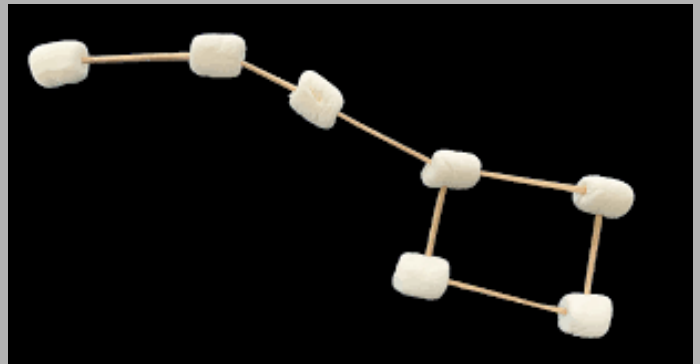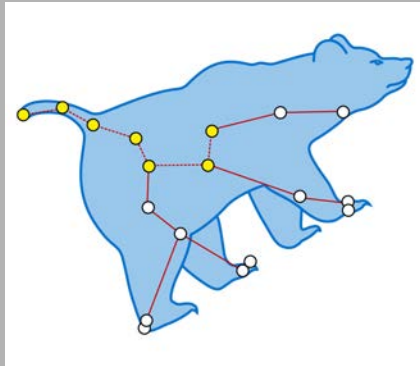- The word 'constellation' comes from Latin: CON, meaning together and STELLA, meaning stars

Books About Stars

Bedtime Shadow Book: The Night Sky – Stories of the Stars (A.Tunnell)

Wishing on a Star: Constellation Stories and Stargazing Activities for Kids (F. Lee)

Did You Know?

The SUN is a giant star - the closest star to earth. It is approximately 4.6 billion years old!
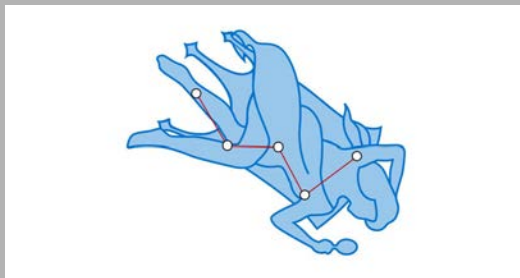
How to make your own, edible constellations:

- Set out your piece of black paper - this will represent the dark night sky
- Using the marshmallows to represent the stars, and the toothpicks to represent the space in between - choose a constellation you'd like to recreate and begin to piece it together - as shown in the image below
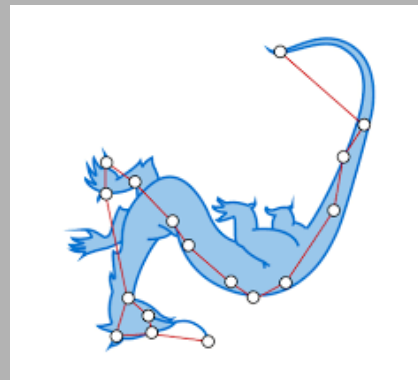
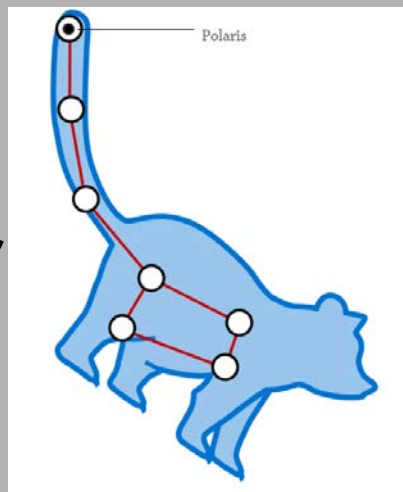## The Big Dipper
(part of Ursa Major)
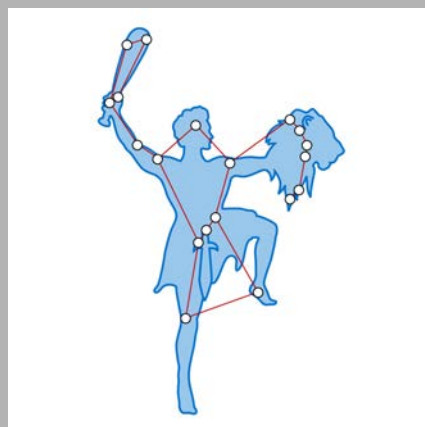

Can YOU create these other constellations?

Casseopeia

Draco

Ursa Minor

Polaris

Orion

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 starts, constellations, the milky way, the moon and planets

- Make note of upcoming forecasts for meteor showers, eclipses or the northern lights !

Show us your learning in-action!

@ofahhfhc