

WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshop

July 2022: Constellation Viewer

Ages 5-12

CONNECT.

Just like we can often spot shapes in fluffy clouds, stars can form designs too! These patterns are called constellations, and they can take the form of an animal, object, person, or creature.

While some constellations are more famous than others, it's likely you know at least one or two. Are there any you have heard of before?

INVESTIGATE.

You'll need:

- Your Constellation Viewer

Wait for a clear night when the sun has entirely gone down. Go outside with an adult or look out your window and take a moment to really observe the night sky.

Then look at the different constellations on your Constellation Viewer and do your best to locate them. Your position on Earth as well as the time of year can affect which constellations you see... So don't expect to be able to spot them all!

Be patient, take your time, and carefully look for each constellation. You should be able to find at least one!

INNOVATE.

Now let's create a geoboard to illustrate what you saw. You can continue to add to your board as you spot more constellations over time, and it will serve as a good reminder of everything you've seen in the night sky!

You'll need:

- Your Constellation Viewer
- Pushpins
- Foam interlocking floormat tile
- Rubber bands and/or thread and scissors

1. Select one of the constellations that you spotted, and think about *where* you saw it.
2. Then pretend the foam tile is the night sky. Where would the constellation go?
3. Use the Constellation Viewer to remember how many stars were part of this constellation, and use the pushpins to recreate the constellation on your foam board.

4. Then take a closer look at the pushpin "stars." If you were to connect them in a design of your choice, what kind of shape could you make?
5. Use the rubber bands or the thread to experiment with different designs until you are happy with your creation. Each star should be connected to at least one other star when your design is complete!
6. Repeat these steps with any other constellations that you spot, being sure to keep each constellation separate.
7. Then, every month or so, continue to observe the night sky. As Earth's position changes, you'll be able to see new constellations... and the ones you could previously see may disappear.
8. Add these new constellations to your geoboard as they come into view. You may also add more pieces of interlocking floormat tile if you need additional sky space as you continue to record your constellations.



The highest point in your home is the roof where you can most easily view the night sky. A roof is the top protective layer of a structure, and a **roofer** specializes in planning, designing, building, and repairing a roof.

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