

# CONSTELLATION BOARD

## Supplies

- Star Wheel template
- File folder

## Instructions for assembly

1. (Optional) Paste the template pages onto the file folder for a more sturdy Star Wheel
2. Cut along the black outer circle of the Star Wheel and along the solid lines on the Star Wheel Holder. Remove the interior oval shape on the Star Wheel Holder.
3. On the Star Wheel Holder, fold along the dashed lines.
4. Tape or staple along the edges of the Star Wheel Holder to form a pocket
5. Place the Star Wheel in the Star Wheel Holder

## Instructions for using the Star Wheel

1. Align your date and time, and then look up at the sky
2. Locate the constellation you want to find on the map
3. Turn your map so the horizon it is closest to is at the bottom
4. The star positions in the sky should match those on the wheel



Northern Hemisphere

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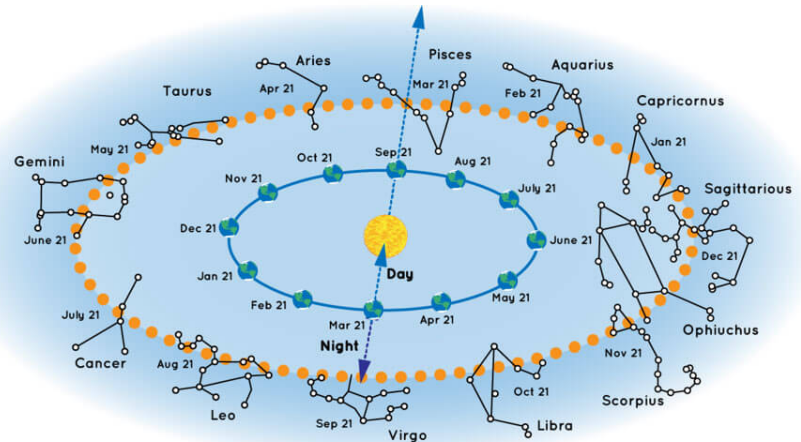
## What are constellations?

"Constellations are groups of stars. The constellations you can see at night depend on your location on Earth and the time of year. Constellations were named after objects, animals, and people long ago. Astronomers today still use constellations to name stars and meteor showers."

[www.spaceplace.nasa.gov/constellations](http://www.spaceplace.nasa.gov/constellations)

The constellations you can see at night depend on the time of the year. This is because Earth orbits the Sun, so our view of the night sky changes. It also depends on where on Earth you are.

For example: if you're in the Northern Hemisphere (north of the Equator) looking at the night sky on September 21, you'll probably see the Pisces constellation. But you won't see the Virgo constellation (they'd be visible during the day, but you wouldn't be able to see them because of how bright the Sun is).



A chart showing some of the constellations that are visible from the Northern Hemisphere in different times of year. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech