SCIENCE

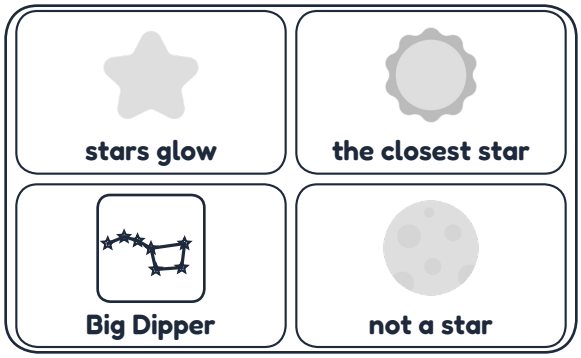
Stars and constellations

Name _____ Date _____

I can describe stars and find a constellation.

1 How it works

Stars are huge balls of hot, glowing gas, like our sun. They look tiny because they are very far away. We see stars at night because the sun is not lighting up our sky, but they are still there in the day. Long ago, people joined stars into pictures called constellations. The Big Dipper looks like a big spoon.



2 Is it a star? Circle yes or no.


rocket
yes no


airplane
yes no


sun
yes no


light bulb
yes no

moon
yes no


Earth
yes no

star
yes no


North Star
yes no

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Connect the stars

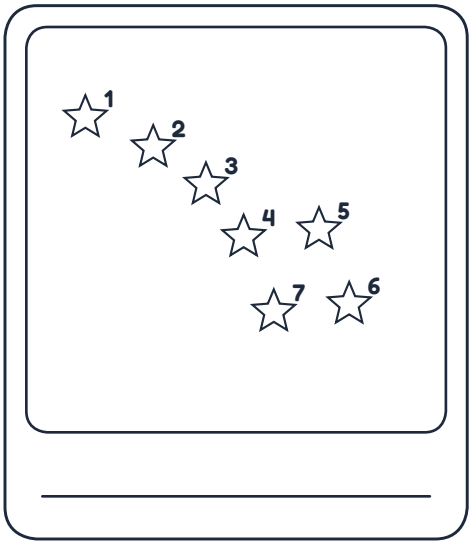
Name _____ Date _____

I can find three constellations.

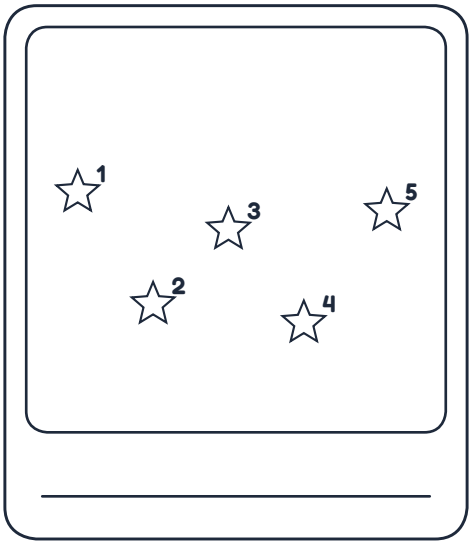
1 Connect the dots in order. Name each one.

Use the words in the box.

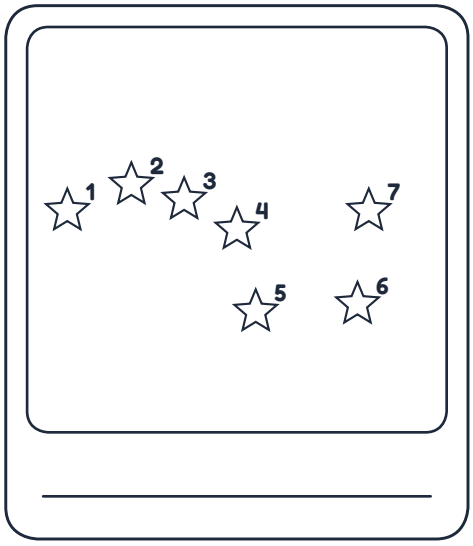
Big Dipper | Little Dipper | Cassiopeia



_____



_____



_____

2 Fill in the blanks

Use the words in the box.

away | constellation | sun | gas

1. Stars are balls of hot, glowing _____.
2. The closest star to Earth is the _____.
3. A star picture is a _____.
4. Stars look small because they are far _____.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Think like a scientist

Name _____ Date _____

I can explain why stars look the way they do.

1 Think about it

1. Why can't we see stars in the day? _____
2. Why does the sun look bigger than other stars? _____
3. What is a constellation? _____
4. Why do stars look like tiny dots? _____

2 True or false? Circle it.

1. The sun is a star.	true	false
2. Stars disappear in the daytime.	true	false
3. The Big Dipper looks like a big spoon.	true	false
4. Stars look tiny because they are far away.	true	false
5. The moon is a star.	true	false

3 Invent your own constellation. Connect the stars and name it.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Try it: a constellation viewer

Name _____ Date _____

I can make a model of a constellation.

1 You need

-  a paper cup
-  a pencil
-  a flashlight
- a dark room
-  a grown-up

2 What to do

1. Draw the Big Dipper dots on the bottom of the cup.
2. A grown-up pokes a small hole at each dot with the pencil.
3. In a dark room, shine the flashlight into the cup and point the bottom at a wall.
4. Move closer to the wall, then farther away. What happens?

3 I predict

What will you see on the wall?

_____

_____

4 What I see

Where	What I saw	Bigger or smaller?
close to wall		
far from wall		

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: stars and constellations

1 Page 1

Answers: 1) rocket: no; 2) airplane: no; 3) sun: yes; 4) light bulb: no; 5) moon: no; 6) Earth: no; 7) star: yes; 8) North Star: yes.

2 Page 2

Constellations: 1) Little Dipper; 2) Cassiopeia; 3) Big Dipper.

Blanks: 1) gas; 2) sun; 3) constellation; 4) away.

3 Page 3

Think: 1) The sun is too bright; 2) It is much closer to us; 3) A group of stars that makes a picture; 4) They are very far away.

True or false: 1) true; 2) false; 3) true; 4) true; 5) false.

Drawing: answers will vary. Look for star dots joined by lines and a name.

4 Page 4: Try it!

Small dots of light appear on the wall in the shape of the Big Dipper. Close to the wall the pattern is small and bright; farther away it gets bigger and dimmer. Real constellations keep the same shapes, which is why people have used them to find their way at night.

5 Teaching tip

On a clear night, ask families to find the Big Dipper together. In class, let children press foil star stickers onto dark paper to copy the pattern they saw.

Safety: a grown-up pokes the holes. Never shine the flashlight into anyone's eyes.

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