

# Constellations

## Part II

### Purpose

The purpose of these activities is to learn about constellations. Students will be able to

1. Define constellation, and related terms.
2. Understand the history of constellations.
3. Recognize and name some famous constellations.
4. Reflect on and write creatively about constellations.
5. Model constellations.
6. Use constellations to practice angle measurement.

### Important Vocabulary (key terms in bold)

star	<b>constellation</b>	celestial sphere	pointer stars
asterism	ecliptic	zodiac	astrology
astronomy	galaxy	light-years	magnitude
luminosity	<b>angle</b>	<b>degree</b>	<b>vertex</b>
<b>point</b>	<b>ray</b>	<b>protractor</b>	

### Star Stories

Students create and name their own original constellations and write a short story (approximately three to five paragraphs) about it. A drawing/sketch should accompany the story. the concept of angles and angle measurement.)

### What's Your Angle?

Students copy constellations from a text or star chart onto graph paper, careful to plot each star such that the constellations are drawn to scale. Students use protractors to measure angles found within the constellations. (Complete this activity in conjunction with the "What's Your Angle?" lesson, which includes an activity sheet, from the *Thursday's Classroom* website: <http://www.thursdaysclassroom.com/13oct00/Act7angles.html>. Note: Students should already be familiar with the basic concepts of angles and angle measurement. Some lessons on this are listed in the "Extra Resources" section below.)

### Star Art: Modeling Constellations

Students draw favorite constellations on black/dark blue paper, using white chalk/crayon. Students also create 3D models, using toothpicks and marshmallows.

### Extra Resources

The following online resources might be helpful for lessons about angles and angle measurement:

1. <http://www.iit.edu/~smile/ma9314.html>
2. <http://www.iit.edu/~smile/ma9101.html>
3. <http://math.about.com/library/weekly/aa031503a.htm>
4. <http://www.uen.org/Lessonplan/preview.cgi?LPid=6409>
5. [http://www.gedillinois.org/instruction/samples/mathSample/math\\_u4\\_12/p1.html](http://www.gedillinois.org/instruction/samples/mathSample/math_u4_12/p1.html)
6. <http://www.andrews.edu/~calkins/math/webtexts/geom03.htm>
7. <http://www.math.com/school/subject3/lessons/S3U1L4GL.html>
8. <http://www.coolmath.com/interior.htm>
9. <http://www.lessonplanspage.com/MathAnglesPatternBlocks56.htm>
10. [http://www.homeschoolmath.net/gy/measure\\_angles.php](http://www.homeschoolmath.net/gy/measure_angles.php)