

For Mark to be successful in his world record attempt, he will have to stay awake for 140 hours with less than 3 hours sleep! Mark will be spending all of his 140 hours talking about space, because, who doesn't love space?!



Input :

Have you ever noticed that some stars are brighter than others and that some seem to make up patterns in the sky? There are some star patterns that stand out more than the others and these are called “constellations”. There are 88 constellations covering the sky like a jigsaw and they each have their own name! Constellations are usually represented by the shape of an animal, person or object. There are many interesting ones to choose from. Mark’s favourite constellation is Orion and is represented by a hunter. When you look at Orion, you can clearly see his broad shoulders, his sword, shield and dagger and of course, his famous three starred belt.

Some of the constellations do look like the thing that they are supposed to represent, such as Orion the Hunter, Cygnus the Swan and Delphinus the dolphin. Some other constellations don’t share much in common with their representation other than their name such as Camelopardalis, the Giraffe.

Activity Ideas -

Take a look at some of the constellations online and see if you can find one that you like. Count the stars, how many are there? Does it’s shape share similarities to the thing that it represents?

Build your constellation using different items around the house / class room. You could use

- Pencils and counters
- Straws and coins
- String and beads

Some easy constellations to build are - Cassiopeia, Bootes, Lyra, Ursa Minor and Cygnus

Tweet in your constellation builds to @GWRlecture to share your creations with Mark and the team

Key Vocabulary

Constellation
Representation

Fun Fact

Canis Major contains the brightest star in the sky, named Sirius.

It means ‘glowing’ in Ancient Greek and is known as the ‘Dog Star’

‘Sirius Black’ from the Harry Potter films transforms into a dog.