

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 :

Introduction :

What is a constellation?

A constellation is a group of stars that you can see from Earth, that form a pattern in the night sky. The patterns are mostly represented as animals, people or objects.

How many constellations are there?

There are 88 different constellations.
36 in the Northern hemisphere and 52 in the Southern Hemisphere.

Constellations are useful as they help people to navigate the sky to find different objects and also to find which way is North!

If you look at the constellation 'Ursa Major' (Great Bear) you will find an asterism called 'The Plough' - it looks a lot like a pan! Follow the pan handle and under the bottom of the pan and up the edge, now continue in that line until you come across a star that stands out. This is our North Star 'Polaris'. It remains in the same place as it is located almost directly at our north celestial pole. Polaris is part of the constellation 'Ursa Minor' which means little bear.

Activity

Using the sheets provided, study the shape of 'The Plough' and familiarise yourself with following the pan handle and underneath and continuing on to find Polaris. You could place a ruler down to help you the first few times.

Once you feel comfortable, move onto the next image, which is a little harder. After this, move onto the final image to test out our new skill.

The final and most important skill check, will be to wait for a dark, clear sky and go out and find Polaris for real!

Key Vocabulary

Asterism - a prominent pattern of stars within a constellation

Resources

Images 1,2 and 3.





