

## Instructions for Constellation Creator Activity

### Prepare your slide transparency.

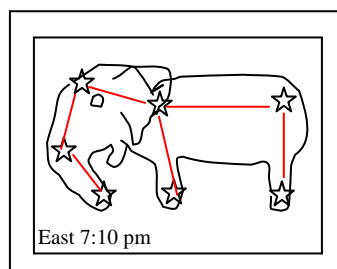
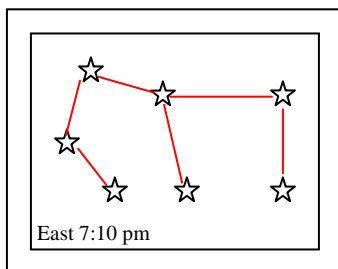
- Step 1. Gather the following materials:
  - Overhead transparency
  - Transparency frame or cardboard (8.5 inches x 11 inches [216 mm x 279 mm])
  - Tape
  - Two permanent markers (one red and one black)
- Step 2. Tape transparency to the frame or first cut out the center of the cardboard to make a 1-inch (3 mm) frame, and then tape the transparency to it.

### Create your constellation.

- Step 1. On a clear night, find an open field that provides an unobstructed view of the night sky.
- Step 2. Select a cluster of stars that can be clearly viewed, are not too spread apart, and seem to form a pattern.
- Step 3. Hold the framed transparency about 12 inches (30 mm) from your face so that the cluster of stars can be seen through the transparency. If the star cluster does not fit, move the frame closer to your face or select another star cluster.
- Step 4. Use the black marker to plot the location of each star in the cluster. Be sure to record the direction you are facing and the time when you document your constellation.
- Step 5. Use the red marker to connect each star in the cluster.

### Name and write about your constellation.

- Step 1. Give your constellation a name based on its shape.
- Step 2. Develop a story for your constellation. You will want to read about other constellations before completing this step. Here is an example of the beginning of a story:



#### The Elephant

Named for the massive animal that pulls the field of stars across the night sky. This constellation can be seen low on the eastern horizon at dusk, moves across the night sky, and drops below the western horizon.

- Step 3. Find out what the stars are in your constellation. Find out more about one star, its luminosity, spectral type, distance from Earth, when it was named, its catalogue number, and so on.