

Learning Activity

Name: _____

Group: _____

Date: _____

Science and Technology Grades 3 and 4

Make Your Own Star Finder



Student booklet

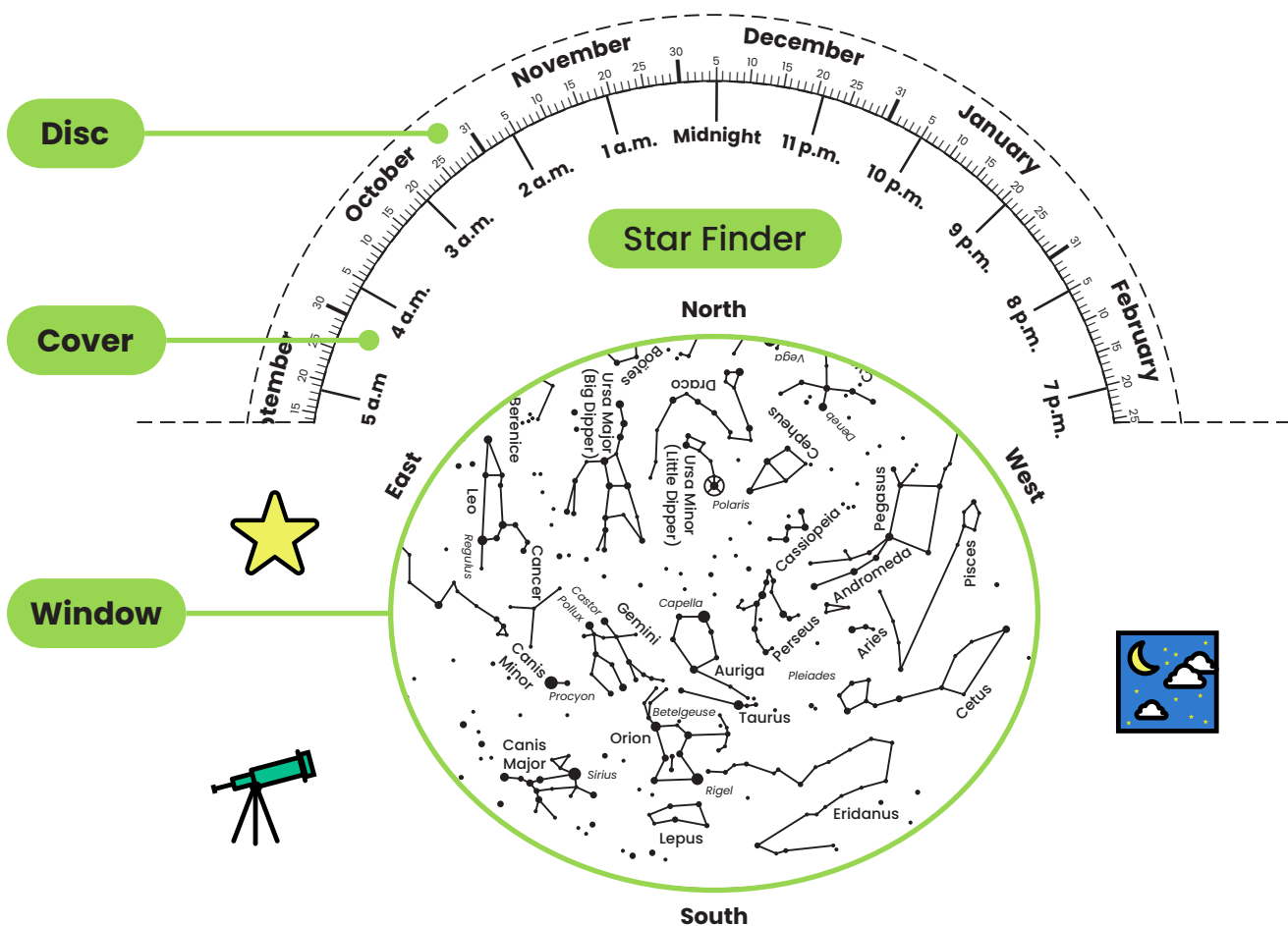
Some Useful Information Before You Start!

A **star finder** is an astronomy tool that shows you what region of the sky is visible at a precise date and time.

A star finder has the following parts:

- A rotating **disc** that shows all the dates of the year and a map of the sky
- A **cover** showing the hours and the cardinal points (north, south, east, and west)
- An oval **window** showing the region of the sky that's visible

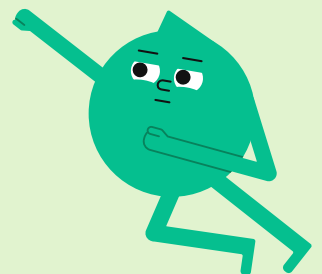
Your Star Finder



Your Missions

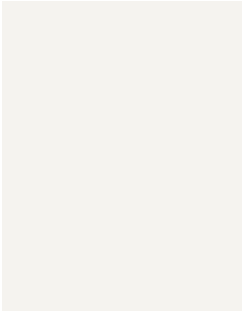
To help you identify the stars and constellations in the sky, here are your missions.

- Mission 1 : Make Your Own Star Finder.
- Mission 2 : Learn How to Use Your Star Finder.

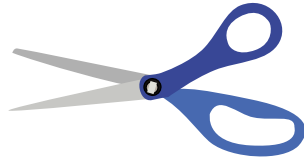


Mission 1. Make Your Own Star Finder.

Materials



1 piece of cardboard



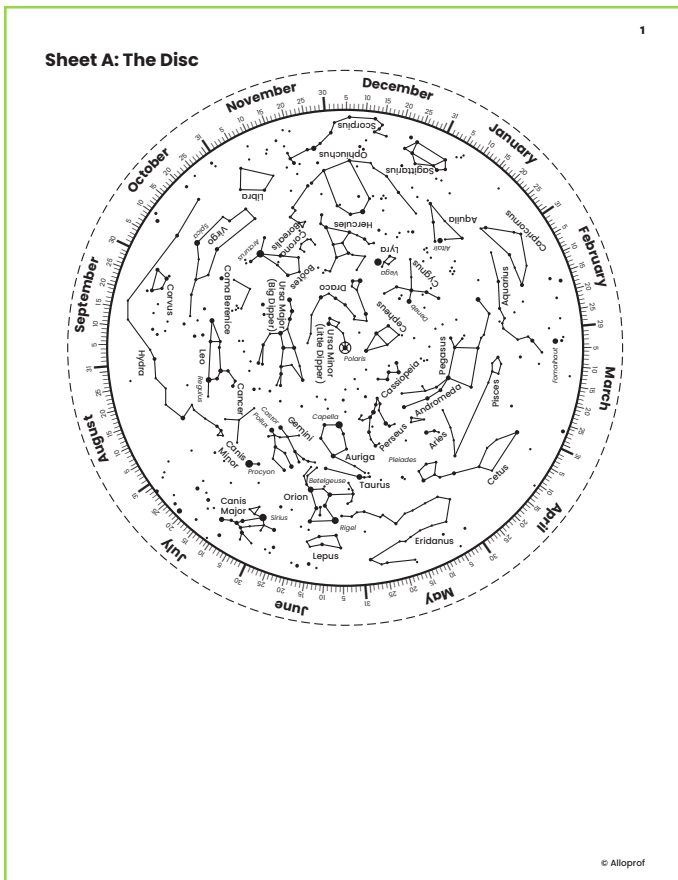
1 pair of scissors



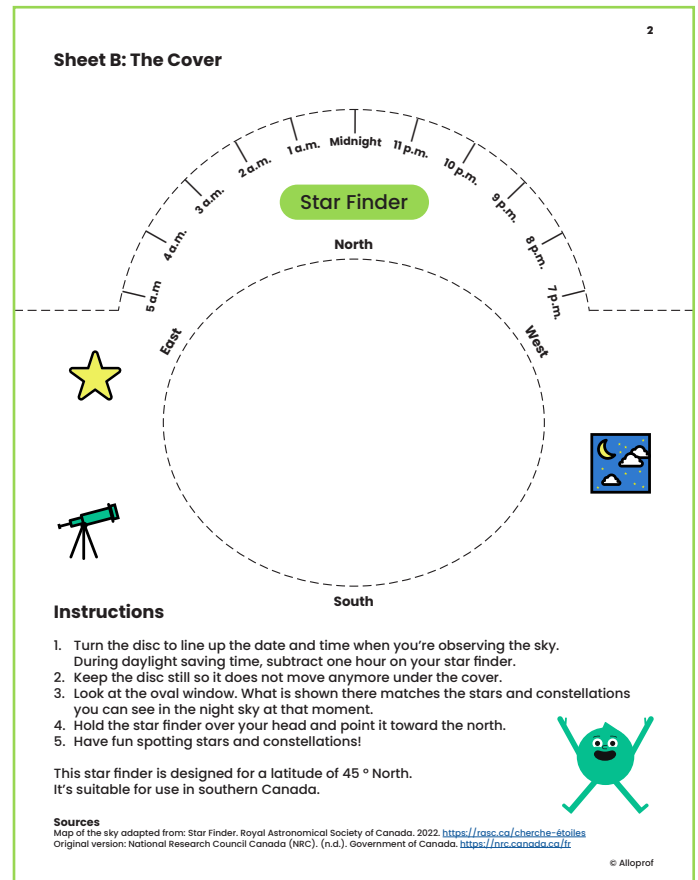
1 glue stick



1 paper fastener



Sheet A: the disc



Sheet B: the cover

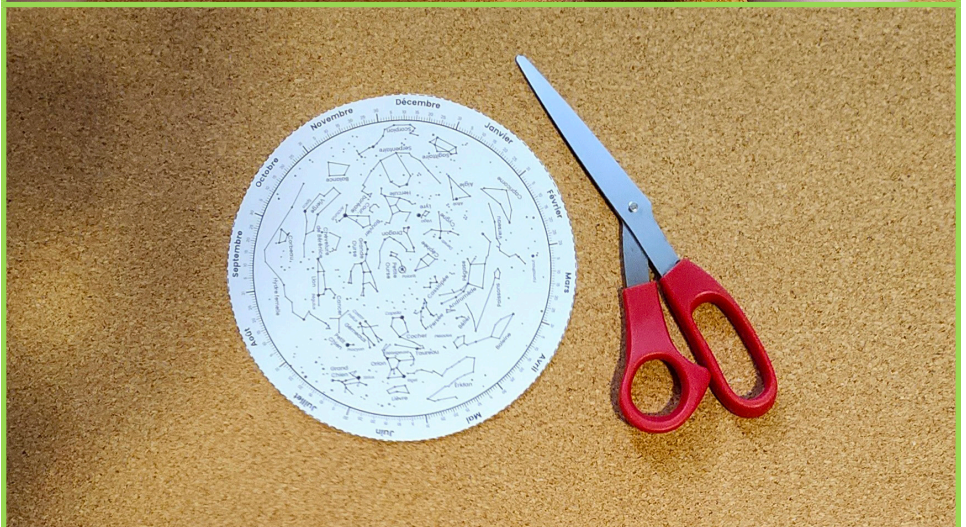
Notes :

- Sheet A and the piece of cardboard are the same size.
- Your teacher has already made a hole in the piece of cardboard and in sheet A at the spot where the North Star is located.

Assembly

Follow these steps to make your star finder.

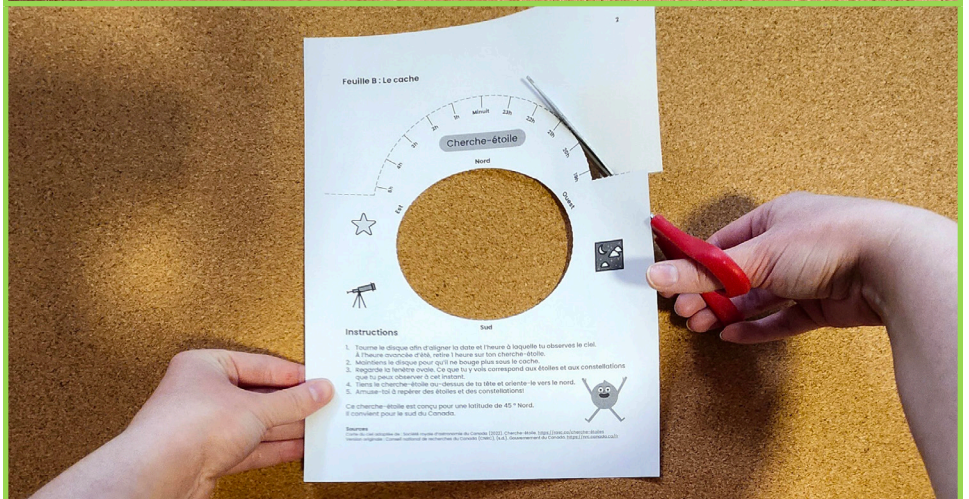
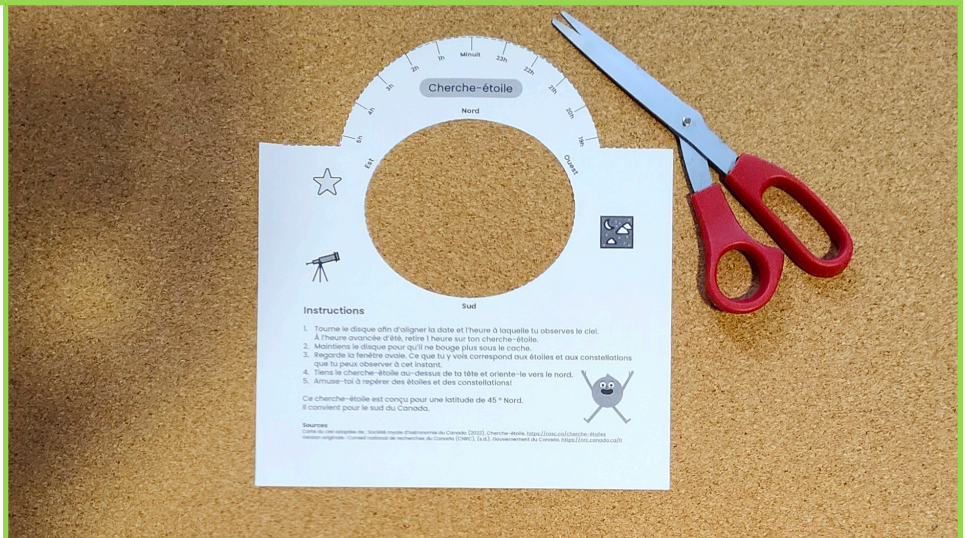
1. Use a pair of scissors to cut out the disc on sheet A along the dotted line.



2. Put a paper fastener through the hole in the disc and the hole in the cardboard.
3. Fold the tabs of the paper fastener back over the cardboard so that your disc can rotate. If you need to, adjust the paper fastener to make it tighter or looser.

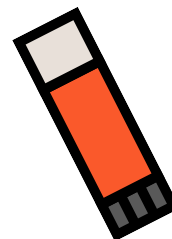


4. Use a pair of scissors to cut out the cover from sheet B along the dotted lines.



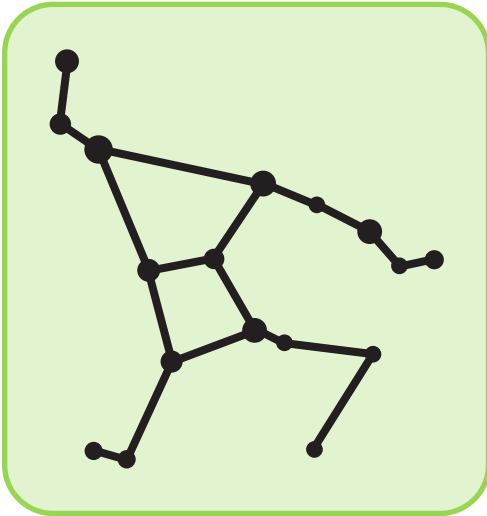
5. Put glue on the back of the cover, but only along the side edges and the bottom edge.

Important! Do not put glue on the top edge.



Mission 2. Learn How to Use Your Star Finder.

Now that your teacher has shown you how to use your star finder, practise using it by answering the following questions.



Question 1

Write the name of this constellation.

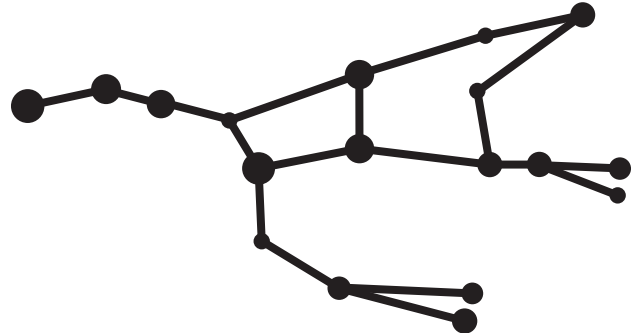


Question 2

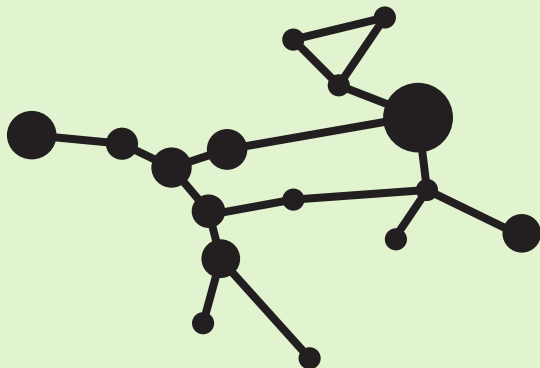
Draw the imaginary lines connecting the stars of Ursa Major (Big Dipper).



The Ursa Major Constellation



The Canis Major Constellation



Question 3

On January 20th, at 8 p.m., can you see the Canis Major constellation in the night sky?

- I can see this constellation.
- I cannot see this constellation.



Question 4

It's your birthday! On your special day, you want to observe the night sky.

1. Write the date of your birthday.
2. Name two constellations you would be able to see near the southern horizon at 11 p.m. on the night of your birthday.



My birthday is _____

At 11 p.m., near the southern horizon, I will be able to see the following constellations:

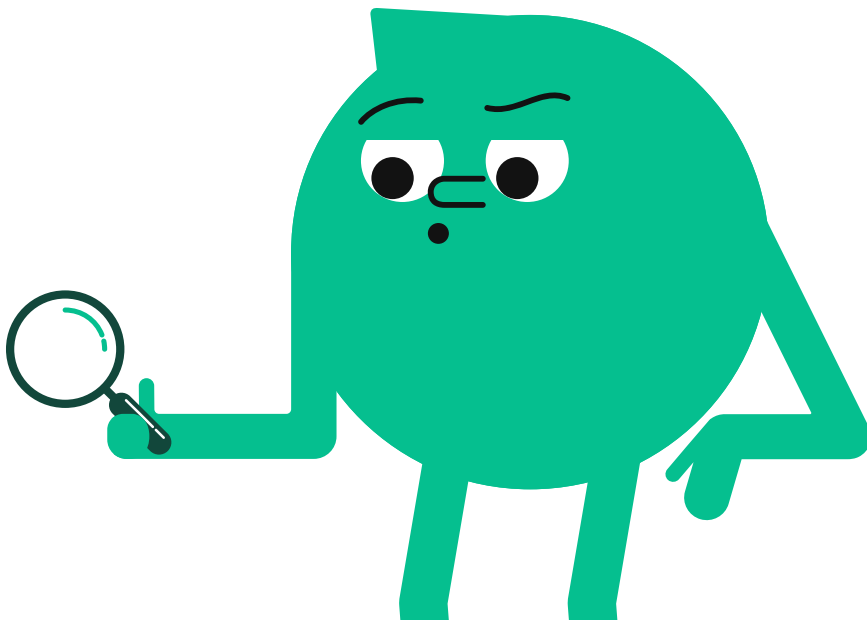
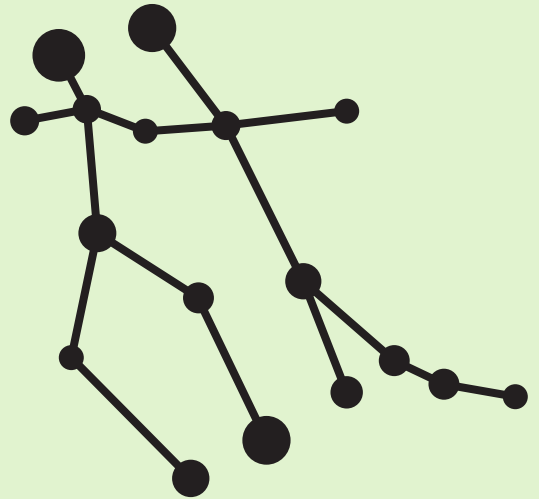
Question 5

You want to see the Gemini constellation in the night sky. Write a date and time when you would be able to observe it near the eastern horizon.

Date: _____

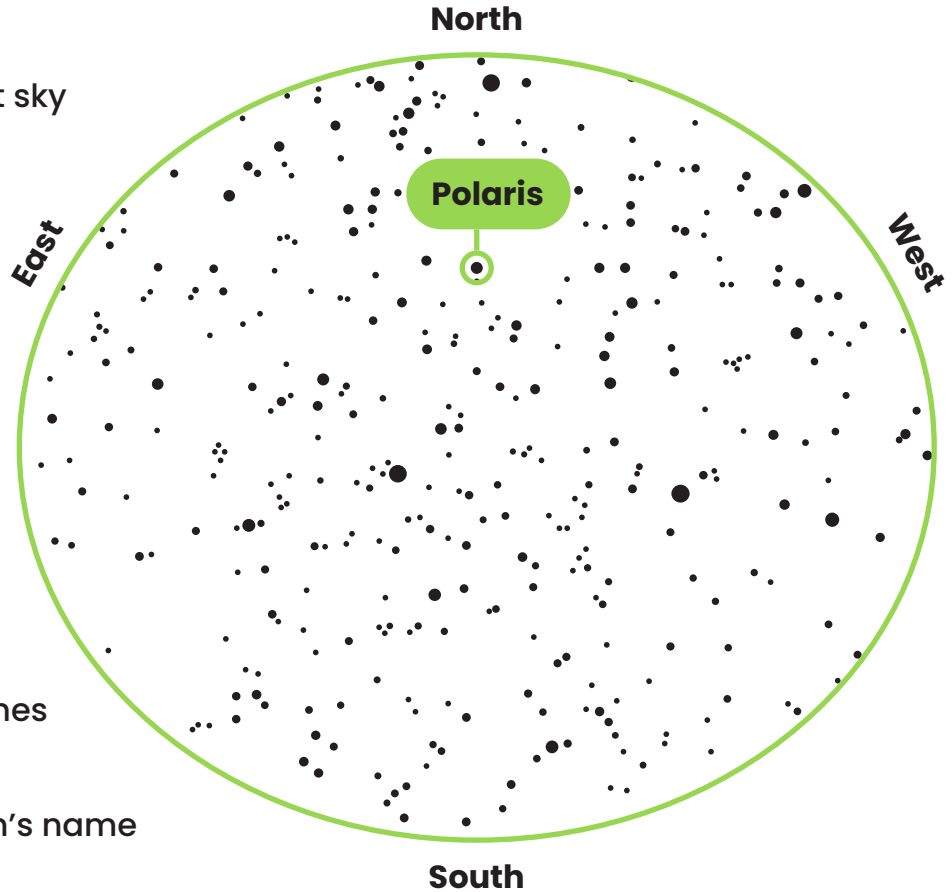
Time: _____

The Gemini Constellation



Question 6

Here's an image of the night sky in Rougemont, Quebec on June 21, 2026, at 11 p.m. To help you, *Polaris* (the North Star) and the north, south, east, and west horizons are marked.



On the image:

- Identify the star Vega by circling it and writing its name.
- Choose **two** constellations.
For each constellation:
 - Draw the imaginary lines connecting the stars of that constellation.
 - Write the constellation's name next to your drawing.

Now It's Your Turn!

Now you're ready to observe the night sky with your family and friends!

Where Should You Go to Observe the Night Sky?

When you're in the city, there's often too much light to see the stars. To see them well, you need to choose the right place.

- You can pick a spot in nature, like a **national park**. Out in nature, there's usually little light, which means you can clearly see the stars. For example, you could go to Parc national de la Jacques-Cartier, Parc national du Bic, or any other provincial or national park.
- You can also go to a place that's just for stargazing, like an **observatory** or **some planetariums**. For example, you could go to the Mont-Mégantic Observatory, the Mont Cosmos Observatory, or the Saint-Félicien Planetarium.

You can easily find several options near you.

Happy stargazing!

