

Nature Journal: The Night Sky

Create a Star Wheel

Use this easy-to-make star wheel from skyandtelescope.org to figure out which stars make up constellations in your night sky!

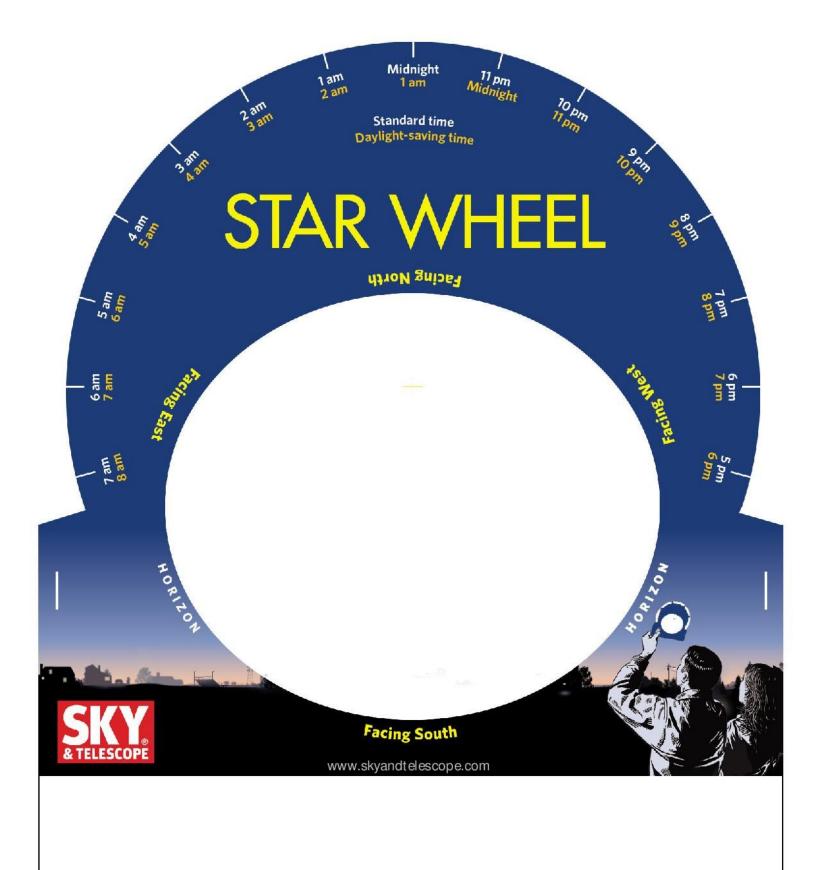


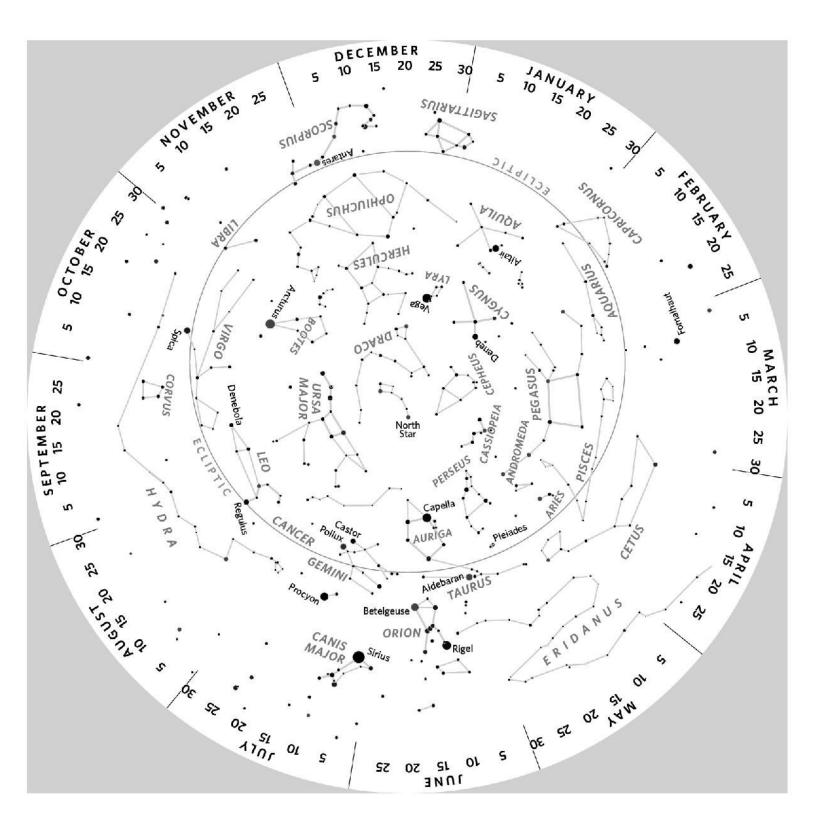
MAKE A STAR WHEEL

- 1. Print out the circular sky map and the star wheel's outer sleeve. Each part for the Star Wheel is sized to fit on a single sheet of letter-size paper.
- 2. Cut out the parts. For the sky map, trim away the gray corners so that you're left with the white circle. For the outer sleeve, make sure you keep the large white rectangle at the bottom and cut out the white oval in the middle. (Watch the video to see how)
- 3. To make a Star Wheel, fold the white rectangle at the bottom of the outer sleeve so it's underneath the front. Then staple or tape the rectangle to the front at the locations marked by short white lines to either side of the oval to form a pocket.
- 4. Put the circular sky map in the pocket so it shows through the oval. Yay! You did it!

USE THE STAR WHEEL

- 1. Pick the date and hour you are looking at the night sky, and set the Star Wheel so this date (on the rim of the circular disk) matches the time indicated along the edge of the outer sleeve. Orange hours are for daylight-saving time.
- 2. The Star Wheel's large oval shows the whole sky, and the oval's curved edge represents the horizon you're facing. Once outside, hold the Star Wheel out in front of you and look at the yellow "Facing" labels around the oval. Turn the entire wheel so that the yellow label for the direction you're facing is on the bottom, with the lettering right-side up. Remember, the Sun sets in the West!







Pick out stars in the sky YOU think should be a constellation.

Make up a myth (story) about your new constellation and write or draw it in the space below!